

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1908.

No. 22

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BIRTH.

On the 24th November, the wife of L. P. NALIN, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday, November 17th, at Shanghai, CARL BEHREND Architect, age 81 years.

At Bombay (by telegram) on the 23rd November, SORABJEE BYRAMJEE BHABHA, formerly of Hongkong.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 30th October and the parcel mail closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 21st October and for despatch overland on the 28th October, arrived per s.s. *Devanha* on the 26th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Tientsin papers announce the engagement of Major Nathan to Miss Detring.

A telegram has been received by the Government from the Secretary of State communicating the information that the International Opium Conference which was to have been held at Shanghai on January 1st will be postponed until 1st February in accordance with the wishes of China in consequence of the deaths of the Emperor and Empress Dowager.

We learn from Japan that snow has fallen at several places throughout the north-eastern provinces. The plain at Kamikawa was covered to a depth of two feet, causing the suspension of railway and telegraphic communication.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Emperor and Empress Dowager, the native members of the Shanghai Municipal Police Force have discontinued wearing the red ornaments on their hats until further orders.

Another serious bank failure occurred at Shanghai last week when a native draft bank suspended payment. It is reported that liabilities amount to Tls. 350,000 and that a prominent local Chinese official and the Arsenal are the heaviest losers.

Several hotels at Hankow have entered into a compact under a penalty of \$100 for each infraction of the same, not to accept chits. Boarders in the hotels are permitted to sign chits for their personal requirements to the end of the present month.

The Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai, on announcement being made of the deaths of the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China, requested his nationals to refrain from all singing, dancing, etc., for three days as a mark of respect to the Chinese in their double bereavement.

The statement which recently appeared in the Chinese Press that H.E. Yuan Shih-kai proposes to purchase Dr. G. E. Morrison's Library is incorrect. The Library in question is not for sale and neither directly nor indirectly has any such suggestion been made by H.E. Yuan Shih-kai.

In connection with the invitation to Tokyo of Dr. Sven Hedin, it is noted that it was largely due to the initiative of Count Otani, Lord Abbot of the West Hongan-ji, Kyoto, who is himself an explorer and who contributed a large sum for the purpose of inviting Dr. Sven Hedin.

It is reported by a Vladivostock despatch, dated the 14th inst., that the closing of the free port of Vladivostock will not take effect until next summer. The bill to sanction the closing was rushed forward but was strongly opposed by the members of the Duma representing Eastern Siberia.

Mr. James R. Morse, President of the American Trading Company, has been honoured by the Emperor of Japan who has bestowed upon him the Second Class of the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure. Mr. Morse has resided in Japan for nearly thirty years and has occupied his present position for eighteen years.

The British Consul at Chemulpo in his trade report for the year 1907, says as regards any fresh openings there may be for British trade in Korea that the present moment is far from opportune for opening trade relations with Korea, as some time must elapse before business recovers from its condition of collapse.

The four native banks which have just failed in Hankow are the E. Wo Lee, E. Wo Sing, E. Sung Wo, and E. Sung Loong. These were all under one promoter-ship or proprietor-ship, the gentleman in question being also part owner of the Han Foong flour mills. The actual amount of the liabilities is as yet undetermined but the most accurate reports to hand place it at probably Tls. 3,700,000. Compradores of several foreign Banks were also hit by the failure.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the fugitive leader of the anti-dynastic movement in China, is reported to have recently arrived in Japan.

It does not seem likely, writes the British Consul at Changsha (Mr. Hewlett), that the system of distributing foreign goods through the medium of Chinese sub-agents will be altered in Changsha for some years, as provincial exclusiveness renders it difficult for foreign firms to open branches in this city, where a powerful and wealthy clique of gentry are in a position to outbid them in the purchase of premises, and in other ways to use their powers to keep them out.

The Manila Horse Show Association will give its second annual exhibition at the Hippodrome, Wallace Field, Manila, on February 11, 12, and 13, 1909, immediately following the Carnival. The object of the Association is to demonstrate to the Filipino the good points of horses and thus encourage the breeding of the proper kind of animals. It is the intention to eclipse in magnitude the show held at Manila last year and present indications, it is stated, augur well for the success of the association's efforts.

A boycott is reported in Tsingtau against the Harbour, says the *Shanghai Mercury*. The ostensible grievance is that the Harbour dues are excessive but this is not believed to be the real explanation, as opposition has been shown to Cantonese compradores and stevedores, etc. The real object of the boycott is believed to be a movement by the natives of Shantung against the natives of other provinces—Shantung for the Shantungese. There is practically no shipping at present between Tsingtau and Shanghai.

Mr. Charles Sessone, formerly Manager of Messrs. Pertile and Company, of Singapore was before the Court last week on two charges of criminal breach of trust from his employers. The sums were \$500, alleged to have been embezzled on or about January 23, 1907, and \$650, on or about January 23, 1907, and \$650, on or about May 7, 1908. The accused pleaded guilty and his counsel addressed the Court in extenuation of the offence, stating that the money had been restored to the firm. Sentence of three months' rigorous imprisonment on each charge was passed the sentences to run consecutively.

It is announced that an agreement has been arrived at between the English and the American episcopates, whereby Bishop Molony's title of Bishop in Mid-China is to be changed to that of Bishop of Chekiang—a diocese in which there are some 4,000 Chinese Christians at nearly 100 centres. An important gathering of the Chinese Bishops is planned for next March. There is a project for making the Divinity School a centre for the issue of Chinese literature. There have already passed through the school 17 native clergy, besides many native catechists and schoolmasters.

The associated Race Clubs of Japan which have of late been approaching General Teranishi, Director of the Horse Administration Bureau, ask the authorities for special support for the maintenance of race-clubs in consequence of the prohibition of the *pari-mutuel*. The Horse Administration Bureau, however, disregards this petition on the ground that as a result of investigations made by the Bureau as to the breeding of military horses throughout the country, the authorities find that it has not been affected by the prohibition of the *pari-mutuel* at all, but that, on the contrary, the prices of military horses are rising.

CHINA'S FINANCIAL CAPACITY.

(Daily Press, November 23rd.)

The recent issue of another foreign loan on the London market makes pertinent the inquiry as to how long China will continue to be able to raise loans in the foreign money markets on the unsupported credit of the Government? Those who have set themselves to investigate China's financial capacity from the available statistical information of the national revenue and expenditure have produced statements which represent the expenditure to be considerably in excess of the revenue. That, however, is too transparently absurd to be accepted, and what the financial capacity of China is remains largely a matter of speculation. Every fresh loan China places on the market must serve to direct attention to the great need of a national Budget. All the loans China has floated abroad have been raised on the unsupported credit of the Government. Apart from the Customs revenue, and perhaps the profits of the Imperial Chinese Railways, no trustworthy figures have been placed before the investor. A resident in Peking, writing a couple of months ago to a London paper, and referring to this subject, mentioned that in British circles it was considered that China could not on her unsupported credit, apart from actual production of figures, manage to borrow, at the most liberal estimate more than another £10,000,000. Since that was written China has raised another loan of £7,000,000 in England, so that on the foregoing estimate she is now deemed to have reached the limit beyond which she cannot hope to induce the investor to lend unless figures are produced to show that the Government's credit is still good. Apparently this is being recognised by the Chinese Government and some steps have recently been taken towards evolving a National Budget. There is already an obligation on the part of Provincial Treasurers to furnish the Board of Finance with annual statements of the provincial revenue and expenditure, but the Chinese Government recognises presumably that such statements as are received cannot be regarded as "true and correct accounts," and they are consequently never published except in the most fragmentary form. The time must come, and the sooner the better, when China must obtain at all costs an honest financial administration and produce a national budget such as the world can accept with the same confidence as it accepts the budgets of all the leading nations of the world. We do not know exactly what is the amount of foreign debt China has incurred to date, but it must be somewhere in the neighbourhood of one hundred and fifty million pounds sterling and the annual interest payable on this is in the neighbourhood of eight million pounds sterling. The demand for foreign capital is a growing one, and Government circles in Peking have apparently been influenced by the voices of caution and moderation to the extent of considering the possibility of evolving a national budget and it is believed that the somewhat nebulous appointment of Sir WALTER HILIER as Financial Adviser to the Government is not unconnected with this intention. But the production of a National Budget in China seems a most formidable undertaking. The idea points directly to what we have before described as the first step in the direction of effective and permanent reform, the entire remodelling of the principles underlying Chinese finance. No National Budget worthy the name will be possible in China until the present system of appointment and payment

of officials is changed, and that being so we fear that the production of a National Budget is still very remote.

CHINA'S NEW RULERS.

(Daily Press, November 24th.)

As time passes by there seems all the more reason to look upon the close coincidence of the deaths of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager Tse Hsi as a fortunate event—so far as China is concerned. Rumour in an Oriental Court is always busy when the death of a reigning monarch, or one sufficiently near the throne to be in the possible line of succession, occurs, and the unusual circumstances attending the Imperial deaths were so out of the ordinary current of events that we cannot accuse the originators of the rumours of any particularly sinister motives. However that may be, there is no doubt that the late Empress Dowager, Tse Hsi was not to be daunted by any merely ethical consideration from any course on which she had set her mind; and there is evidence enough to show that she always had willing tools at her disposal to carry out her most truculent desires. There is but little doubt that when in the Palace revolution in 1898 she practically imprisoned the late Emperor in his own palace; she was only deterred from completing the task by his death through the unmistakable symptoms of disapproval shown by the foreign Powers, and more especially by Japan. What actually occurred will probably never be known, but it certainly was of such a nature that the young Emperor never recovered from the shock, and remained for the rest of his life a broken wreck both in mind and body. The strongest evidence for disregarding the sinister rumours which have been spread abroad is that Tse Hsi could have had no possible motive in hastening the Emperor's death, as whether he lived or died his mind had become too enfeebled to take up the reins of government, and a regency would have been equally necessary in either case. With all the instinct of life, common in those who have led an unusually vigorous life, Tse Hsi refused till the last few days of her life to think even of her possible decease; and unwilling to allow such a matter to enter her thoughts she, after the failure of her first attempt in the person of Prince Tuan's unfortunate son, refused to permit the subject of a successor to Kwang Su to be mentioned in her presence.

The subject was surrounded, it was clear, with difficulties: the fact was that with the usual fate of Oriental dynasties, the Imperial House had become debauched, and so far had this gone, that scarcely one of the remaining princes of the blood could be looked upon as quite *compos mentis*. She had tried once, and the result had shown the degeneracy of the stock; she might probably make a second mistake. At all events the premature announcement of an intended successor would unite against him all the cunning of the weaklings who would consider themselves as passed over, so, from her point of view, it appeared wiser to postpone the nomination till the last moment. It was fortunate for the dynasty that the last moment gave her the opportunity, for she seems to have maintained her faculties till the end. There is still little doubt that practically she had made up her mind for some time, and was gradually taking steps to place Prince Chun in such a position as would point to his being eventually competent to undertake the responsible duties of Regent. According to the Chinese rules of succession no member of the same generation can offer up the

Imperial sacrifices to his predecessors, the rule here being the exact contrary to that prevailing in monarchies under Turkish rule, where the momentarily most capable is held the most suitable. With regard to Prince Chun himself, almost accidentally we know more of him personally than of any of the other princes of the blood, owing to the fact that he was selected to go to Germany to apologise for the events of 1900. The simple fact of his having travelled, and seen the world outside China, would of itself have had a certain effect in opening his eyes to the true state of affairs, but beyond this he is credited with having taken an intelligent interest in what he saw; and certainly at the Court at Berlin he conducted himself with due dignity and discretion. In China, on his outward and homeward voyages, he made a favourable impression on all who came in contact with him, both natives and foreigners; and since his return he has had the address to avoid being mixed up with any clique or party; so that the late Regent, in her very last act at all events, seems to have had the best interests of her country at heart. Though feeble in body, and lately broken in mind, the late Emperor, it is to be remembered, at one time gave promise of being capable of great things, his brother, not unlike him in person, and with a stronger constitution, it may reasonably be hoped, will be able to do much to restore the lost prestige of the Imperial family. He, at all events, has had the advantage of a more wholesome bringing up than fell to the lot of his unfortunate brother, who apparently of set purpose, under the imperious will of the late Dowager, was placed in the hands of the eunuchs about the court, to his ruin mentally and physically.

We have said at the beginning of this article that it was perhaps a fortunate thing for China that the death of the Empress Dowager followed so closely on that of the Emperor. Although possessed of a powerful mind, and an indomitable will, the Dowager Empress Tse Hsi was yet a woman—and, as a woman, early fell under the influence of the Eunuchs about the Court, with whom she had been associated intimately in her original low position. It was undoubtedly to their influence that the greatest scandals of her life were due, and both her own son, and his successor, were under their rule brought up to a life of indolence and debauchery. It was possibly not so much from evil motive as from ignorance of the first principle of education, that this course was adopted, but it was perhaps the greatest crime of a long, and and by no means, immaculate life. There is little doubt that had she lived but a short time longer the same course would have been adopted in the case of the new Emperor, and the attempt would certainly have been made to bring his father, Prince Chun, under the same evil influence. It is possible that his short journey to Europe, and his visit to the Court at Berlin strengthened the lesson, which was certainly apparent to him in the disorders of the Dowager's private Court. His present advisers, not the least of whom is the veteran CHANG CHI TUNG, used all their influence to break the power of the Eunuchs at court, which they saw plainly was sapping the foundations of Imperial rule. It is perhaps the most healthy sign of improved conditions that almost the first act of the new Regent, doubtless under the advice of the two Grand Councillors has been to dismiss two of the Eunuchs who had attempted to commence a palace intrigue. But financially the influence of the Eunuchs has been one of the principal

causes that rendered reform under the late regime actually impossible. The fact was notorious that practically all the principal appointments in the Empire were merely matters of barter. This had been common enough under the later rulers of the dynasty with whom every post had its assessed value, so that practically the revenues of the State were as much farmed as they were under the later Roman Emperors. But of late years affairs had become worse. Over and above the regular assessment the Eunuchs, separately and individually, had to be arranged with;—and this while the Empress Regent was all the while impressing on the Provinces the necessity of retrenchment. This system of veils, which, for all her strength of character the Regent had permitted to grow up to the most outrageous dimensions within her own Court, has been the besetting sin of her administration, the one sin, in fact, which rendered every attempt at reform impracticable.

Much useless talk has been indulged with regard to the new Regent again, as to whether he is "pro-foreign," or "anti-foreign," as if that were an important matter of policy. What China needs is, of course, simply that the country and its best interests should be the first aim of her statesmen. China has wisely taken to heart the lesson impressed on her by misfortunes that there are many things necessary for her well being, that she can only learn from foreigners; but on the other hand it will be equally incumbent on her rulers to learn that there are many foreign things which the wise will equally profitably reject with disgust and loathing. Above all it will be the wisest thing of the new Regent to avoid the use of either one term or the other, and look only in his policy to the interests of the Empire itself. Foreign Powers will certainly not permit him to forget their existence, so that part of his rule will need little prompting.

THE WHITE RACE IN TROPICAL COUNTRIES.

(Daily Press, November 25th.)

The idea is very commonly entertained that the white man cannot live and thrive in the tropical regions of the earth under any other than what have been termed "aristocratic conditions,"—that is to say conditions similar to those prevailing in India and the Far East where the white races supply the brains, the capital and the organising power and leave the unskilled and manual labour to be done by the indigenous races. This belief, we notice, has recently been strongly attacked by an Australian physician, Dr. T. P. MACDONALD, who has lived and practised for many years in the hottest parts of Queensland. In a lecture delivered at the London School of Tropical Medicine he affirmed most emphatically that there is no essential reason why a white Northern race should not flourish in the hottest and most "tropical" parts of that country. The Doctor's interest in the subject was apparently excited by the alleged existence in Japan of a party which is strongly of opinion that the Japanese race is ultimately destined to colonise and control a large portion of Northern or tropical Australia, while in Europe there is said to be an "uneasy feeling" that the island-continent is not adapted by Nature for the production or continuance of a vigorous white race. Dr. MACDONALD says that the recent history of Australia supplies an unanswerable refutation of this theory. "In Australia," he says, "opposition to the main contention of the people that they could and would

perform all work of a tropicultural nature in Queensland has disappeared; the question is a thing of the past, and a deep thrill of hope has gone through the land that the Anglo-Saxon people will reach the culmination of its destiny in tropical lands." Statistics are quoted to show the enormous expansion of sugar grown by white labour in Queensland, from some 221,776 tons in 1903 to no less than 1,197,435 tons in 1906,—a wonderful advance for four short years.

Various reasons have from time to time been set forth by medical scientists to support the view that tropical climates are inimical to the white man, and the pigmentation of the skin of the tropical races has been regarded as the last word on the subject. What, it is asked, is this pigment but a God-given protection from the actinic or short wave rays of the sun? Dr. MACDONALD shows that this view will not stand investigation. In the first place we are told that it is rather a staggering blow to this assumption to note that the average temperature of Japan is the same as that of England, and that not a scrap of the islands of Japan extends into the tropics. "They are a non-tropical race, and as such can claim no climatic or peculiar fitness for occupying any tropical or sub-tropical region." We think this conclusion is open to argument. While it is true that Japan is not a tropical country, and while it may also be true that the average temperature of Japan is the same as that of England (a statement which we cannot at present accept as applying to Japan as a whole) it must be allowed that the summers of Japan are far better samples of "tropical" weather than England can furnish. We doubt if Dr. MACDONALD would get from anyone who has lived in Japan—at all events in Central Japan—any support for his assertion that the English agricultural labourer is equally as well qualified as the Japanese so far as climatic experience goes for work in tropical countries. He certainly is not. Reverting, however, to the colour question, Dr. MACDONALD's observations are that the Chinese, who are inhabitants of a country with a higher average temperature than that of Japan are nevertheless several degrees lighter in colour than the Japanese. "Again, if skin pigmentation or colour is an adaptation to sunlight, we may well ask why are the Eskimos, inhabitants of the Arctic regions, brown in colour, or the Finlanders dusky, the Indians of the American and Canadian prairies red, the Maories of New Zealand black, and the Eugenes from the ice-bound straits of Magellan, black, or why are some of the races of India, the so-called Dravidians, much darker in colour than many other races of India who have equally been exposed for countless generations to the same hot sun?" This seems to effectually explode the colour theory of geographical distribution. Dr. MACDONALD's own theory of colour is that the pigment of the skin corresponds to the place in time of the races, the blackest skins being found in the most primitive and backward races, and that between the coal black skin of the chimpanzee, our remote cousin, and the skin of the white races there is a spectrum of colour according to the degrees of lightness of shade which correctly indicate the degree of the evolution of the race, and its distance from its remote anthropoid origin. "Pigment," says Dr. MACDONALD, "is dissolved by time out of the human skin. Climate plays no part in the operation." The white races are the elder brothers of the human race "the heirs of all the ages, in the foremost files of time." This is a very interesting theory, but we fancy it is one which antiquarian research does not tend to confirm.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION IN ENGLAND.

(Daily Press, November 26.)

Situated as we are in this outpost of the Empire, happily removed from all the sectarian jealousies and party strife which distract the people at home, we still watch with interest the attempt to reduce the educational chaos to something like order. For years there has been no problem before the country so difficult of solution as that concerning education. It has evoked a bitterness and a rancour not found in the ordinary political discussions of the day, fierce as they often are, and this regrettable circumstance is simply due to the fact that religious considerations, or rather sectarian jealousies, underlie the whole question. Admittedly such a condition of affairs is bad for all concerned. The education of the young, perhaps the most important charge devolving upon the State, does not receive the whole-hearted attention that it merits. Other considerations are allowed to obtrude themselves, with the result that the educational system of England is in many senses a reproach to the nation. It is not equal to the systems of America or Germany, and it is not difficult to understand why such keen competition should come from the two countries named. Even Scotland is better off in this respect than the "predominant partner." The need for betterment is apparent to most people but the way to this end is beset with many difficulties. Whatever solution is offered must have regard to existing rights, and that is the rock on which so many schemes have been wrecked.

The Education Act of 1870 made education compulsory, but unfortunately it made the establishment of School Boards optional. The inevitable happened. The denominationalists refused to give up their schools, and School Boards were found competing with denominational schools. It was a sorry state of affairs. Then came the Act of 1902, which imperfect as it was, had the merit of introducing some sort of system where none existed. It co-ordinated both elementary and higher education and it placed all the schools under an authority. Of course the Non-conformists did not like the Act. But neither did the parish priests. The Non-conformists felt they had a grievance in having as rate-payers to contribute to the teaching in schools other than their own of dogmas to which, they objected overlooking the fact that the cost of the secular education in their own schools which they had previously to pay was now thrown on the community. On the other hand the parish priest and his school managers were shorn of many of their old privileges, and the Roman Catholics had also to come under secular authority from which they had hitherto been free. Still, imperfect as it was, the Act introduced a better system of education. It was also responsible for the appearance of the Passive Resisters, a body whose actions were never free from bathos, and who were distinguished for that intolerance of which they themselves complained. The long delayed return of the Liberal party to office in 1906 gave rise to ardent hopes that the grievances created by the Act of 1902 would be removed. Mr. BIRRELL introduced an Educational Bill that year and after a stormy passage through the House of Commons it was rejected by the House of Lords. Its primary objects were public control of schools, establishment of undenominational teaching and the abolition of religious tests for teachers.

The Bill had many defects. There is no need to enlarge on these. Worst of all, it did not please those in whose interests it was really drafted, and when the Lords threw out the measure more than one leading Non-conformist returned thanks for such a result. Now another attempt is being made to remove existing cause of dissatisfaction. Will Mr. RUNCIMAN succeed where Mr. BIRRELL failed? The question is one which it would be unwise to answer either way, as we have before us only the barest outlines of the new measure introduced this week by the President of the Board of Education in the House of Commons. Undenominational teaching is apparently not the objective this time. Religious teaching on the COWPER-TEMPLE principle, with the option of denominational teaching twice a week at the cost of the denomination desiring such teaching, is to be provided. That looks like a return in some degree to the ante-1903 conditions when religious teaching was sanctioned, relief being afforded by the COWPER-TEMPLE clause of the 1870 Act to those who did not wish to attend school during the time in which religious instruction was imparted. Both this scheme and its alternative show that the Government are unable to get away from the principle of denominationalism: existing interests must be recognised, and rightly too. It is, of course, unfortunate that scholastic requirements cannot be considered apart from sectarian questions. It complicates the problem enormously. Yet it has to be faced. These distinctions and differences must not be overlooked in any attempt to unravel the educational tangle, and profiting by past failure the Government are proceeding on new lines. The abolition of denominational managers is another feature of the measure. This will doubtless meet with disapproval, though the opposition to this proposal will perhaps be minimised when it is remembered that the Act of 1903 made the denominational or non-provided school managers subject to the Education Authority. They lost the power of the purse and also the power of appointing or dismissing teachers. Religious tests for teachers vary under this Bill,—apparently another effort to please both parties. Broadly speaking, and without a knowledge of its text, Mr RUNCIMAN's measure seems to embody the spirit of compromise. It is evidently an attempt to give all parties what they desire, and we are the more inclined to this opinion when we note the telegram sent by our London correspondent that "a strong non-party committee has been formed to support the Education Bill." From this we may reasonably infer that a *modus vivendi* has been arrived at and if the new Bill succeeds in soothing the sectarian jealousies and allaying bitter party strife the present generation will have cause to bless the name of Mr. RUNCIMAN.

THE PERSIAN CONSTITUTION.

(Daily Press, 27 November.)

It has been said that the tree of liberty has never flourished in Asiatic soil, but however true this may have been at one time, it is hardly applicable to the present day. The bright exception of Japan at once comes to mind and there are signs that other peoples of Asia are equally desirous of obtaining the gift of political liberty. India may be mentioned as a case in point, but we do not propose to include it in our present consideration, as we believe the clamour for representation is confined to a comparatively small, but noisy, section of the populace and that, as the King's recent

message indicates, when the people may safely be entrusted with some degree of autonomy it will not be withheld from them. Persia, however, is the other exception we have in view. The people of that country have had a constitution for about three years but it has not had a chance to develop. Its initial indiscretions were not condoned as youthful follies which would pass when knowledge came with maturer years, and it was early apparent that the present SHAH did not look with particular favour on the experiment of his father, although he signed a new constitution after his accession. Internal disorders have distracted the country for more than a year, culminating in the scenes in the capital which recalled historic events in the story of England when OLIVER CROMWELL used his soldiers to disperse parliament, followed by the long expected declaration of the SHAH that the constitution would be withdrawn. But, as our London correspondent announces, he has been compelled to cancel this declaration, and we may presume from this that the National Council will again be called into existence. What is most significant, however, is that Britain and Russia should have asserted themselves so promptly and so vigorously. They have demonstrated to the SHAH that the days of unlightened despotism in the land are at end and that the fair prospect of political reform which charmed the nation is not yet an empty dream.

Until the liberal concession of the late SHAH, Persia had no settled laws, no State organisation, not even an attempt at systematic government. No one had any rights besides the King, and his authority was paramount. The administration of the land was conducted on the most iniquitous lines: offices were bestowed upon the highest bidders, and the poor farmers, traders and artisans looked upon those set over them as unscrupulous tyrants against whom they could not protect themselves. Now, it is hoped, the decadent nation will experience the sensations of revivification. At any rate the intellectual fermentation which it has shown for some little time indicates that the desire for political freedom is not new born. In many respects the outlook was more promising in Persia than in Turkey, for in Persia the national element is far stronger than the Turkish. The Persians also are livelier, more gifted and more excitable than the Turks, but, owing to a variety of causes, they have not advanced so far as their Western neighbours.

The SHAH's reasons for declaring that "never under any pretext shall such a parliament be established" will not bear examination. When he says that the learned people do not desire a constitution we must either conclude that they have changed their minds within a remarkably short period or else that the "King of Kings" has been misinformed. It is quite conceivable that the SHAH is ignorant of the real state of the country—of the abuses, the crying injustice and the corruption, which exist, and many patriotic Iranians regard the ministers and councillors who surround the PADISHAH as being the real obstacles to progress. Like the people of Russia who believed that if they had access to the "LITTLE FATHER" all their wrongs would be righted, so these patriots believe that if only the SHAH was aware of the condition of the people all would be well. How long they will hug this delusion we cannot say? The second reason given by the SHAH for refusing a Parliament—that the clergy have decided it is in conflict with the laws of Islam—is one that might be

expected to appeal strongly to the sons of Iran, but we imagine it will be discounted to some extent by the fact that the reformers have constituted Islam the fundamental principle of all reforms. By this means every innovation will much more effectually appeal to the faithful, but the fact that religion and government are practically inseparable in a country where the ruler is the spiritual head as well as the absolute monarch makes it difficult to forecast the chances of success of any thorough reform. The struggle with despotism and the wrestling for liberal institutions must, of necessity, be far greater in Persia than in Turkey owing to the power of the priests, and were it not for outside intervention we would doubt the possibility of an era of reform in that ancient land. It is evident that the future of Persia lies in the hands of Russia and Britain. The present régime is impossible. It is difficult for an Oriental sovereign to regard a constitution with anything but horror, and, without being unduly pessimistic, we may regard the compliance with the demand for a parliament as a mere pretence of acquiescence. How long it will continue we cannot say, but it seems to us the beginning of the end has come. The political independence of the Shehinsbahs has been dealt a staggering blow, and the time when the land will be placed under the sovereign protection of either Britain or Russia or both cannot be long delayed. There is the possibility of course that that action may not be necessary—that the reformers may do great things, may recreate the nation and establish an acceptable government on a sound basis but the chances are against them.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Not for a long time has China been so stirred as she is at present. To lose her two rulers at once is remarkable and the uneasiness which it occasioned was perhaps justified. Fortunately the prospects of peace being disturbed are only on the newspaper horizon, and after the seriocomic edicts have had their little day we may settle down to ordinary life.

We have often heard it said that to get news of home one has to leave home. Some such thought must have passed through the mind of Admiral Li when he came down from Canton to Hongkong without having had any information as to the Imperial deaths. In the port the British warships half-masted the Chinese flag, but not so Admiral Li's two cruisers, and the Admiral must have felt annoyed to find later that he had been guilty, consciously or unconsciously, of lack of respect to the dead rulers.

It may not be generally known that the late Empress Dowager of China held Queen Victoria in high esteem. In Her late Majesty's day room at the Palace were two steel engravings, one representing Queen Victoria in regal array, the other a picture of the Queen and Prince Consort surrounded by their children. The Empress Dowager thought there were many points of similarity between her own reign and that of Queen Victoria. They had each been widows the greater part of their lives, and had each ruled over great empires. Another point of similarity that struck the Empress Dowager was that the faces of both bore the same "lines of longevity."

How thoughtless of these people down Manila way where they manufacture typhoons to send another of their products along in our direction. It is against the rules to have a typhoon so late in the year, and it took us all by surprise to see the warning signals go up on Friday, followed by more significant ones on Saturday. The typhoons threatened us longer than usual this year, and surely we are entitled to a respite now.

Stands Scotland where she did? One may well ask the question on learning that among the numerous sons of Caledonia in Hongkong there is not one able or willing to come forward and "blow the pipes." At the practice dances for St. Andrew's Ball the music for the reels is supplied by turbaned sons of Ind! Shades of Bruce and Wallace! A dusky piper to play eightsome reels for Scottish dancers! What a degenerate age!

Subscribers to the ball are, I hear, not quite as numerous as in some previous years, but the arrangements will be on the same generous scale. Ladies and gentlemen with experience of former balls have already filled their programmes and sets have also been arranged. Nothing like taking time by the forelock!

A good deal has been said in the native press lately about the minting of new Chinese coins with a view to fulfilling the "uniform currency" obligation of the Mackay Treaty. But, if China is minting all these millions of silver coins, how is it that the price of silver is so low? Has China been hoarding silver for this purpose so that she does not now need to buy? China's resolve to introduce as a national coin the new tael piece, of which it is said millions are now being minted, raised hopes that China would come into the market as a large purchaser of the white metal, and that her demand would be a prominent influence in determining the price of the metal for some time to come. So far however, the prophets are discredited. Silver is lower now than it was before the reported minting operations began. What is the explanation of it?

More administrative changes! Just when the new Head of the Sanitary Department and Mr. Hooper are beginning to understand each other, Mr. Messer is removed, and Mr. J. H. Kemp leaves the Magistracy to fill the onerous post Mr. Messer vacates. Mr. Kemp in the various legal positions he has held has proved a most capable official and deserves the promotion which, I presume, this step means, but it is a little disquieting to learn that the position of Head of the Sanitary Department is not as much a fixed position for the official appointed to it as is the position of Colonial Secretary or Director of Public Works. Mr. Messer will doubtless prove an excellent Postmaster-General. He has had previous experience of the work, and filled the position with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. All the same, such an early change at the Sanitary Board is to be regretted.

Every now and then we hear a denunciation of the chit system when its pernicious effects are held up to public view, and it must have struck many as rather curious that the churches should take advantage of a system which has been found so blameworthy. I am not a regular attender at church myself, but I believe in some of the places of worship printed slips and pencils are placed on the book boards for the use of those who have no ready cash. I suppose the defence will be that the end justifies the means, but I am not quite so sure.

Talking of churches, which in Hongkong as in other places are not overcrowded, reminds me of an amusing paragraph I read the other day in which it was related that the Rev. Dr. Baker, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Oakland, and now manager for a correspondence school, declared that the reason the churches do not draw larger crowds is that they do not advertise! "They have the best line of goods in the world," he says, "and they ought to present them in an attractive manner. There seems to be something in that, comments the journal which published the statement. A few lines of advertising in the classified columns might do much. But the wares would have to be as good as the "ad." There is a popular impression that church services and sermons nowadays appeal only to the really devout and that the wicked find in them little to attract. As the wicked presumably need them most, perhaps Dr. Baker can indicate how they might be changed.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

On Sunday last the Colony had warning of the proximity of a typhoon within the 300 mile radius, and yesterday the Manila Observatory advised that another typhoon was travelling W. or W.N.W. from south-eastern Luzon.

On Nov. 23 the 3rd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment left Hongkong in the troopship "Dufferin" for Singapore. The soldiers carry with them the good wishes of their friends. His Excellency the Governor went on board and addressed a few words of farewell to the men of the Middlesex Regiment.

Mrs. Raming, residing at the Italian Convent, reports to the police that while she was a passenger on the *America Maru* which arrived in port yesterday she lost on the 21st inst. a gold finger ring set with eight diamonds, value \$350, a lady's gold scarf pin set with a pearl and twelve diamonds value \$500, a gold neck chain value \$50, the total value being \$900.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 14 of 1908, entitled—An Ordinance to amend The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and The Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance, 1903, and to make better provision for the preservation of the Public Health.

At the Magistracy on Nov. 21st Mr. J. R. Wood delivered his decision in the case in which Mr. H. Fiedler, licensee of the Café Weismann Ltd., was summoned for retailing intoxicating liquor without supplying meals. His Worship found the defendant guilty of a contravention of the Licensing Ordinance and imposed a fine of \$100.

On Nov. 24 a gharry accident took place near the Clock Tower. The two Chinese ponies which were drawing the vehicle in which were seated two persons took fright and bolted. They ran for some distance when the gharry collided with a lamp post, with the result that the shafts were smashed. The occupants escaped with a severe shaking. Not so the driver who had jumped down from his seat and attempted to stop the affrighted animals. He was knocked down and received a severe cut on the face.

The special announcement made by the P. & O. Company in our advertising columns that the big liner *Macedonia* (10,500 tons) is scheduled as a through mail steamer from the Far East for Marseilles and London via Bombay is of interest to the large number of residents who appear to be contemplating a trip home next summer. The *Macedonia* will leave Hongkong on March 20th. She will make a stay of 24 hours at Bombay and is timed to reach Marseilles on April 17th and London on April 24th.

When the Court of Summary Jurisdiction sat on the 25th inst. His Honour the Puisne Judge was informed that the action in which the Ham Sun Wing firm sued Tang Chee, as representing the Kowloon Cricket Club, for the recovery of \$744 due under a contract for the erection of a pavilion, had been settled. The terms of settlement were that \$144.03 should be deducted from the claim in respect of work alleged to be unfinished, and the defendants are to pay to the plaintiffs a sum of \$600, and \$50 towards the costs. On fulfilment of these considerations each side will withdraw its respective action.

Householders cannot be too careful of loafers on their premises, whether they be dismissed servants or friends of their servants. In support of this attention has only to be drawn to the case which we reported on Nov. 24 in which a Chinese was sentenced to six months' hard labour for stealing a gold watch and chain the property of Isaac Elias of 6 Chancery Lane. Mr. Elias reported the watch and chain and a pocket book containing \$35 as missing to the police on the 21st inst. and next morning a Chinese detective arrived at the Central Police Station holding a youth by the queue with one hand and carrying in the other the missing gold watch and chain and pocket book. Some of the money had gone to furnish the delinquent with a new outfit. The youth was, as stated, sent to prison for six months. The police are anxious that householders should see that no visitors are harboured by their servants on the premises.

The Colony was able to show a clean bill of health for the last week, no cases of plague or communicable disease having been reported.

A hawker was at the Magistracy on Nov. 25 charged with being in unlawful possession of three cheques to the value of \$68 which are believed to have been stolen from the Dairy Farm office. He was remanded until Friday.

It seems difficult to realise how it was done but nevertheless it is reported to the police here that a lighter belonging to the Kowloon Godown Company while in shelter at Causeway Bay on the 22nd inst. lost 45 fathoms of three-quarter inch chain value \$200 which was believed to have been stolen.

Coolies who are paid on piecework down West Point sometimes attempt loads for which they are incapable. It often happens that they load a truck with so many bags that when the wheels enter the smallest rut they are unable to move the truck. This happened on Saturday, but the coolies had the misfortune to have their truck stick in the car rails and block the traffic. For this obstruction the principal was summoned before Mr. Wood at the Police Court yesterday and fined \$10.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the following persons have been registered as chemists and druggists under the Pharmacy Ordinance, 1908:—Messrs J. R. Capell, of A. S. Watson & Co.; Cheng Kam Ming, Government Civil Hospital; A. T. Duncan, Watkins, Limited; H. Humphreys, A. S. Watson & Co.; E. Neidhardt, German Dispensary; W. M. Nish and A. P. Nobbs, A. S. Watson & Co.; F. Sönksen, German Dispensary; H. S. Spurge, F. W. Stapleton, J. R. Suiter and W. D. Sutton, of A. S. Watson & Co.; G. A. Watkins, Watkins, Limited.

Another tragic death is reported as having occurred at Wanchai last week. Mr. H. Howarth, late storekeeper of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who occupied a flat in Arsenal Street, had been absent from his work since the 18th instant. Messengers had been sent to his residence to make inquiries, but on each occasion found the door of his flat locked. Then the police were communicated with, and on proceeding to the flat and forcing the door, found deceased lying on his bed with a bullet wound in the head, and a revolver lying by his side. Deceased was buried at Happy Valley yesterday, when many of his friends followed the cortege.

HOLDING FOR RANSOM.

An interesting charge was heard before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Nov. 26 when Mr. G. N. Orme on behalf of the police prosecuted two women for unlawfully detaining a child by force. It appears that about midnight on October 14th a man named Hing Lee residing in the Shan Tuk district was awakened from his sleep by three robbers, armed with rifles and revolvers entering the house. They took with them his son, a boy of ten years of age, and after keeping him in the country for some time brought him to Hongkong. He was subsequently found at 81, Station Road, Yaumati, where, according to his story, he was kept for six weeks in the company of the defendants, one of whom taught him to call her mother. He was not allowed out on the verandah or stairs. When the police went to the house the men were absent but in a box belonging to one of the defendants a letter was found addressed to the boy's father asking him to hurry up and produce the ransom. "We want \$2,000 ransom" was a sentence in the letter. After hearing the evidence of the father and the boy, his Worship convicted the younger defendant and sentenced her to one year's imprisonment. The second defendant said that the other brought the child to her house and said that he was her son. The case against her was remanded.

It is understood that H. E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements will proceed home on short leave in the spring of next year, probably about the end of March, and that he will return to Singapore about the close of July. We also note that Sir Henry McCallum, the Governor of Ceylon, will likely be proceeding to England about the same time also on short leave.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 24th inst. at the Board Room. Hon. Mr. Chatham, Vice-President, presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Lieut-Col. Reid, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health), and the following officials: Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

For the fortnight ended 3rd instant 266 houses were limewashed in the Eastern, and 84 in the central district.

THE NEW HEAD.

The VICE PRESIDENT said—Before proceeding with the ordinary business I will read a communication I have received from His Excellency the Governor. It is as follows:—

The sad death of Mr. L. A. M. Johnston has necessitated several changes in the holders of appointments in the Civil Service of the Colony, and I am especially sorry that it should involve a change in the head of the Sanitary Department. Mr. Messer becomes Postmaster-General and I have appointed a cadet of much experience, Mr. Kemp, to succeed him. Mr. Kemp cannot, however, leave his duties as police magistrate at the present moment since there is no one to take his place in that appointment until the return of Mr. Hazeland from leave. I have therefore appointed Mr. Hutcheson to act as Head of the Sanitary Department. I have the fullest confidence in his ability to discharge the duties of that very responsible post and I am sure that the members of the Sanitary Board will afford him all the help in their power. I could have wished that the officer who acts as President of Board had already had the experience and status conferred by having acted previously as head of a department, but with this exception I am confident that no one will more efficiently meet the requirements of the post."

The VICE-PRESIDENT also read the following letter received from the Colonial Secretary addressed to the Secretary of the Board:—

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that H. E. the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has appointed Mr. J. H. Kemp to be Head of the Sanitary Department with effect from the 18th inst. As owing to the exigencies of the public service Mr. Kemp will be unable to take up his appointment for some months, H. E. the Governor has appointed Mr. R. O. Hutcheson to act as Head of the Sanitary Department with effect from to-day.

Mr. HOOPER—We did not know last time we sat here that Mr. Messer was going away, and as he is not here I think I should only be voicing the feelings of all members of the Board, present or absent, by congratulating him on his new appointment which we take to mean promotion. With regard to his successor, Mr. Kemp has been well known in the colony for many years and in taking up the appointment as Head of the Sanitary Department and thereby becoming President of the Sanitary Board he will not be coming on new ground. He will come with the experience which he acquired some few years ago when he acted as Secretary of the Board. Of course he acted as secretary under the old Ordinance which has been repealed, and the new Ordinance has to a certain extent lightened his duties. I am sure he will perform these duties to the satisfaction of the Board and of the community.

PRAISEWORTHY PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said there was another letter which he would like to bring before the notice of the Board. It was from the Registrar General and stated that Mr. Chan Kang Yue had been good enough to have printed at his own expense in Chinese the article from the Indian Plague Commission's Report with regard to the destruction of rats, and had caused it to be circulated not only in the city, but in Kowloon, copies of the pamphlet having been left at every floor of every house. He thought this action showed an excellent public spirit and one which should be properly commended.

A KOWLOON NUISANCE.

Mr. HOOPER drew attention to the filthy condition of the covered ricksha shelter at the

Ferry Wharf, Kowloon, and suggested certain improvements.

The VICE PRESIDENT replied that the matter would have the attention of the Medical Officer of Health.

BACTERIA FOR RAT DESTRUCTION.

The following extract from the *Journal of Comparative Pathology*, relative to the use of bacteria as a means of destroying rats, was read:—Experiments have repeatedly been made to discover a reliable means of destroying rats, especially since these rodents are now known to be the carriers of bubonic plague. On account of the danger to human beings, the question was regarded in Germany as of such importance that the Imperial Sanitary Council appointed a commission who were entrusted with the discovery of some effectual methods. France, England, America and more recently Denmark, have also studied the question. In the latter country an Imperial (*sic*) law was passed granting subventions to clubs formed to destroy rats. Unfortunately, up to the present time, no sufficiently reliable material has been discovered. Those proposed, such as strychnine, phosphorus, Clayton's SO_3 gas, and various vegetable poisons produce no substantial result, nor did any greater success attend the attempts in South Africa, where ferrets were employed, as these animals themselves were found to be subject to bubonic plague. The fact that mice can be infected with Löffler's mouse typhoid bacillus and thus destroyed without danger to man led to experiments being made with many different kinds of bacteria most of which were found in rats, with the object of producing epizootics among these rodents. Of such bacteria, a certain species is of great interest inasmuch as it has been employed for destroying rats and has recently been cultivated on a commercial scale. It comprises the bacilli of Danysz and Dunbar and Ratin. During an epidemic amongst field and wood mice in Charny on the Seine, Danysz found a bacillus which, when given to various rodents with their food proved pathogenic, for all, although at first appeared only slightly injurious to rats. By numerous passages through animals it proved possible to increase its virulence, so that when fed to rats it appeared of an extremely virulent character. Unfortunately the hopes held out by Danysz's bacillus have not been altogether justified. The practical experiments carried out by Danysz gave relatively good results, inasmuch as in 50 per cent of the places where the bacillus was tried, the rats were almost entirely destroyed. In 30 per cent of the cases they were diminished, and only in 20 per cent was the result negative. Nevertheless the results obtained by Danysz's methods have been tested by other experimenters who have either given doubtful or altogether negative results. Dunbar isolated all the bacterium for certain rats which had died in his laboratory as a result of extensive epizootic. For several years he had noted outbreaks of an infectious disease amongst the experimental animals, and especially amongst experimental rats in the Hamburg Hygienic Institute. This disease often assumed the nature of plague (though in several instances, it occurred in isolated cases) and presented a more or less close resemblance to bubonic plague. The animals showed loss of condition, marked injection of the vessels of the subcutaneous connective tissue, hæmorrhagic buboes, and often punctiform necrosis of the liver and spleen as well as hyperæmia of the lungs. When animals were fed with the material they showed inflammation of the intestines and swelling of the peyer's patches and of all the lymphatic glands. This marked resemblance to the naked eye appearances of those of bubonic plague in rats caused Dunbar to relinquish the idea of using this bacterium as a means of destroying rats in Hamburg. At the same time he conducted laboratory experiments for the purpose of determining the pathogenic powers of his bacillus against rats, and succeeded in destroying from 45 to 50 per cent of the gray rats which he used. Even more recently a preparation of bacteria has been introduced by Gneumann in Aalborg as a commercial article for the purpose of destroying wild rats. The bacillus was obtained from the urine of a two years old child which was suffering from cystitis. Experiments in the laboratory and in a limited degree in practice with this Ratin bacillus did not invariably give satisfactory

results, for several of the experimental animals always survived. The same is true of the experiments made in Halle, where practical tests were carried out and the official reports state that in certain sharply defined areas Ratin proved unreliable. The general appearance of the three bacteria of different cultivation media shows that they all belong to the large group of so called ptomaine producers. Trautmann and Xylander have also shown by extensive agglutination tests that they appear to be identical with Gartner's bacillus paratyphoid enteritidis. The virulence of Danysz and Dunbar's bacillus, and also of the Ratin bacillus, varies within wide limits. The two first investigators were unsuccessful in increasing the virulence of the different varieties as against grey rats. In every case bacteria, which proved very virulent in the case of tame rats and white mice produced uncertain and relatively limited effects when applied to grey rats. The explanation generally advanced for this is that the blood of grey rats often contains large quantities of some protective material. The existence of this apparent immunity is believed by Trautmann and Xylander to be due to the animals having already undergone a slight infection with similar or related bacteria, and to the consequent production of protective materials in the blood. Such accidental infections appear more, probably inasmuch as rats must very frequently be exposed to infection with bacteria of the kind now in question. Recent investigations have made it clear that bacteria of the paratyphoid group occurred not only in the faeces of men and animals but in dead bodies, in impure drinking water, and in drainage. A species of bacteria isolated from these sources are sometimes only slightly infectious, for experimental animals; some indeed are entirely innocent. Negative results, however, do not prove that such bacteria are innocent under all circumstances, for variations in virulence are very common in other varieties of pathogenic bacteria. Moreover, when we consider that rats are commonest in places abounding in filth such as slaughter houses, stables, canals and knackers' yards, it appears very probable that they frequently become infected and thereby immunised against the above mentioned bacteria belonging to Gartner's group. During his experiments Xylander found that rats caught in a bone mill where they lived on all kinds of decomposing flesh etc., proved quite refractory to infection with the Ratin bacillus given by the mouth, and substances could be isolated from their blood which appeared to give protection against the Ratin bacillus. From the above it is easy to understand why bacteria of this class, although very virulent for white rats have given only partial or doubtful results when employed for the destruction of grey rats on a large scale. We have in fact to deal with rats which have already attained a certain degree of immunity. Even when using an extremely virulent variety, one can only hope to bring about the destruction of those rats which have attained partial immunity, or which are still open to infection, and these appear not to constitute more than 50 per cent of the whole. This percentage will probably become even smaller if the use of such poisons becomes more general, and especially if rats had opportunity of partaking of only moderately virulent or absolutely non-virulent varieties, and thus become immune. The use of cultures of bacteria for the destruction of rats appears both on biological and mechanical grounds to be very limited. Their use will also be interfered with under certain circumstances, inasmuch as bacterial varieties which are absolutely innocent for man are at present unknown. Bynhoff has occupied himself with the relationship of Löffler's mouse typhoid bacillus to the bacillus of human paratyphoid, and Trommsdorff has more than once pointed out the possibility of human beings being infected by his bacillus. This variety certainly seems somewhat less dangerous than the enteritidis group because it has not been clearly proved that the former produces poisonous materials capable of withstanding heat. The above warning therefore applies even more emphatically to bacteria of the enteric group which produced products poisonous alike for men and animals. This close relationship of the bacteria to those of Gartner's group would therefore indicate the

necessity of observing great caution in using such bacteria in practice; in other words, so long as we are uncertain that the bacteria above named are essentially different from those of Gartner's group, they must be regarded as belonging to it, and as constituting a danger for men, both, children and adults, and in some degree, for the larger domestic animals. Even though the prospectuses describing Danyss and Ratin poisons expressly state that these bacteria are harmless for other animals and for men they do not entirely allay the fears which naturally attach to the systematic distribution of pathogenic bacteria in large quantities.

Mr. McI. MESSER minuted—Circulate for the information of the Board. Our experiences of these bacteria are that in this Colony they have proved useless in getting rid of rats by establishing a contagious disease amongst them.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics showed that the death rate for the whole Colony for the week ended 31st October was 23.1 per thousand; and for the week ending 7th November 24, as against 29.1 for the corresponding week of last year.

RAT RETURN

The rat return showed that of 1350 rats caught since last meeting only five were plague infected.

CANTEENS AND LICENCES.

IMPORTANT MAGISTERIAL DECISION.

At the Magistracy on Nov. 24 the hearing of the summons against A. M. Thornhill of the Royal Engineers' Canteen for having retailed liquor without a licence was resumed before Mr. J. R. Wood. Detective Sergeant Appleton conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defence.

The No. 1 bar boy, who said he could read and write English deposed that on the day in question a Chinese servant came and asked for liquor. Witness asked the servant if his master was a soldier and he replied that he was. Witness however was dissatisfied and refused to supply him. The servant returned later with a chit and asked for a bottle of whisky and a bottle of port. Witness repeated his question as to whether the servant's master was a soldier, and on being answered in the affirmative he supplied him. Witness did not know all the soldiers' boys and he did not serve unless a chit was produced. He knew Chinese were not allowed in the barracks without a licence. His instructions were not to supply civilians and he had refused to serve civilians.

His Worship—Have you had applications from civilians?

Witness—Yes.

How often?—About once a week.

Did they come from Chinese or English?—Both.

How do they get in?—I don't know.

Do Chinese civilians get in?—Boys, yes.

Do they get in?—No.

I'll start again. Do you receive applications from Chinese civilians?—Only soldiers' servants.

Do you receive applications from civilians' servants for liquor?—No.

You are quite clear about that?—Yes.

You commenced to tell me you received applications of some kind once a week not ordinary. What were they?—Europeans would come personally about once a week, and ask to be supplied with liquor.

Then you do receive applications from civilians?—Yes.

Supposing you receive a chit asking for liquor, and you don't know the name, would you supply it?—No.

When this man came on the 11th he produced a chit and you supplied the liquor?—Yes, there was a name on it.

Do you know the name?—No. There were some new drafts of soldiers come out.

On this occasion you supplied drinks to a man whose name you did not know?—Yes.

How often do you do that?

Mr. Otto Kong Sing thought the question was not quite fair.

Witness said he relied on the word of the servant if he said his master was a soldier.

How often do you do that?—Very seldom.

By Sergt. Appleton—How long was the boy absent when he went out?—About ten minutes.

Have you ever given drinks in response to chits whose signature you did not know?—No.

Were you in the canteen on 24th October before noon?—I don't remember.

His Worship—How long have you been employed there?—Two or three months.

Sergt. Appleton produced a chit asking for liquor when the request was refused. He wished to do so in order to show that it was quite easy for Chinese to get into the barracks. His Worship declined to put it in.

The No. 2 bar boy gave corroborative evidence as to what passed on the 11th inst. between the last witness and a Chinese who wanted to buy liquor.

By the Court—It was seldom they received applications from civilians and never from civilians' servants. There were between 100 and 200 customers at the canteen.

By Sergt. Appleton—When new drafts of soldiers arrived he did not know if a list was supplied giving names of soldiers who lived outside the barracks.

Sergt. Major Benfield, R.E., who arrived on board the *Soudan*, said he went to the R.E. canteen on the 7th in plain clothes and asked for a bottle of port wine, but was refused.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said he had made out *bona fides* in this case. It was only by the false representations pursued by the police that they were able to get the liquor in the way they did. Defendant was put there by the military authorities and he wished the Court to adjourn the case for a week in order to consult them.

His Worship declined to do so.

His Worship, in giving his decision, said—I want you to understand that in selling liquor without a licence you commit a breach of the local law and any sale after this date will be an offence, and the fact that I have warned you here will be quoted against you if further proceedings be taken. It seems to me that canteens in this Colony should keep a list of customers and if any orders are received the servant issuing the liquor shall have his list at hand to which he can refer. My view is further that an account should be kept showing how much liquor is bought by each of the customers in order to guard against them handing liquor to outsiders. I will impose the nominal fine of one dollar.

Mr. Thornhill then asked his Worship what course he should adopt.

His Worship replied that he could not sell liquor without a licence.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing remarked that there was no provision in the local ordinance giving a licence to a canteen. There were only two forms of licences granted by the justices—a full licence or an adjunct.

His Worship—Well, then, a canteen must take out a full licence.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—Then it becomes a public house.

His Worship was understood to say that if a canteen was run by a number of men it became a club, but if it was run by a man for profit it became a licensed house.

Other remarks which were not distinctly heard at the Press table were passed in which Mr. Thornhill asked if he could write to the Secretary for War.

His Worship replied that he could do what he liked.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing asked his Worship if his ruling was that canteens must be licensed.

His Worship—At present you are breaking the law by selling liquor without a licence.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing—He can sell groceries but he cannot sell liquor.

His Worship—Yes.

This terminated the proceedings.

The British Consul-General at Manila has filed with the Governor-General a complaint of a British subject, an Indian, in Albay, to the effect that his companion in business has been assassinated and that he himself has been threatened if he does not give up certain property that he has purchased with his own money. The Governor-General at once telegraphed to the provincial governor of Albay holding him responsible for the safety of the threatened man and ordering him to see that he is given all the protection due to the lives and property of foreign subjects.

A CHARGE OF ARSON.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. An Ping Kwing, managing partner of a silk and piece goods shop at 69 Bonham Strand, was indicted on charges of setting fire to the shop on the 10th instant, persons being therein; and setting fire to the shop with intent to injure and defraud certain insurance companies.

Mr. G. N. Orme, Deputy Superintendent of Police, prosecuted; Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendant; and Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the Insurance Companies.

Mr. Orme, in outlining the case, said that An Ping Kwing was the managing partner of the Tai Lam piece goods shop. There were seven partners associated with him in the business, but Mr. Orme understood they were away in the country. Sometime in the summer the defendant and these seven partners, or dummies or whatever they were, put their heads together to raise \$10,000 to set up in business in Hongkong. On August 12th the defendant came to Hongkong and set up in Jervois Street. There he remained until November 3rd, when the landlord gave him notice to quit. Defendant then removed to 69, Bonham Strand East, where he engaged a carpenter to erect shelves. The erection of these shelves necessitated a considerable amount of shaving. This inflammable matter was spread about the floor, and Mr. Orme understood that it was not swept up. On November 10th the unlucky man awoke to find his house in flames. At 2 a.m. a constable who was walking along the street saw the flames bursting out from the ground and first floors, and almost simultaneously from the two upper floors as well. As soon as the fire had cooled down sufficiently the police entered the building, being accompanied by Mr. Lammert. They made an inspection of the relics, and both the police and Mr. Lammert saw shavings and rags, among which they detected a smell of kerosene. In consequence of this the defendant was arrested and charged. Insurance had been effected to the extent of \$19,500.

Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, deposed to receiving a basket of debris from Sergeant Watt and examining same for kerosene. He did not find any, but found some spent crackers and naphthalene balls.

By His Worship—The debris was all wet, and even if there had been kerosene he would not have been likely to detect it. His evidence was not of much value either way.

Cross-examined—Camphorine balls were used to keep away moths. They ought to be found in most piece goods places. Witness would not expect to find them used as a method of setting fire to a building.

Mr. Orme—Of course, Mr. Browne speaks as an amateur.

Mr. Grist—No, he is speaking as a scientist and has been called to give expert evidence.

Witness, continuing, said he would not expect crackers to be used for setting fire to a building.

Mr. H. A. Lammert, auctioneer, spoke to visiting 69, Bonham Strand East on the 10th and 11th instant. On the first occasion he made a casual inspection, but on the second visit he made an inspection with Inspector Smith and Sergeant Watt. Witness did not see any stock on the first floor—only personal effects. On the ground floor witness saw quantities of burnt piece goods and shavings which smelt of oil. He did not think there was a great quantity of goods in the shop before the fire. There had not been too much damage done to prevent him from making an estimate. He was of opinion that there was not more than \$4,000 worth of stock in the shop.

Detective Sergeant Watt stated that on the forenoon of the 10th instant the defendant called at the Central Police Station to report the fire. Witness took defendant's statement down on the typewriter.

Mr. Grist—What the defendant said is not evidence against him unless he was properly cautioned.

Mr. Orme—There was no offence charged, or chargeable at the time. I submit his statement can be taken.

His Worship admitted it, but noted Mr. Grist's objection.

Proceeding, witness spoke to smelling kerosene in the shop, and mentioning the fact to the defendant. The latter said, "I must have kerosene in the shop. It has come from the lamp. The shavings were caused by the carpenter's work in putting up shelves. Witness arrived at the scene of the fire about ten minutes after alarm was given. The fire was got under in about half an hour."

In cross-examination witness said the entrance to these premises was a sliding door of wooden bars.

Where there has been arson would you expect to find a door open or shut?—That's hard to say.

The object of arson is to recover insurance money, isn't it?—Usually.

The reason you put this man under arrest was because of the smell of kerosine?—Yes, and the shavings.

And you have since ascertained that a carpenter was at work?—Yes.

After further evidence was heard the case was adjourned.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

A meeting called by the Naval Yard Football Club of those interested in the formation of an association football league was held on Nov. 23 at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Lieut. Mullins presiding over a good attendance which included representatives of the Hongkong, Naval Yard United, H.M.S. Tamar, R.A.M.C., the Buffs, R.E., Lusitano and Y.M.C.A. Football Clubs.

The Chairman indicated the reasons given for the formation of the league. Personally he was against it on account of the difficulty of obtaining ground, the lateness of the suggestion, and the fact that there was already a shield competition as well as competitions in connection with both services.

Mr. Glover, representing the Naval Yard spoke in support of the proposal.

Mr. F. Browne expressed disapproval of the proposed league, stating as his objections that it would entail a great strain on the players and that clubs were not sufficiently strong enough to stand the strain of league football. It would also fall very heavy on the executive and he stated that the idea of the Hongkong Football Club at present was to distribute the play amongst the greatest number. He did not believe in players migrating to other clubs. In conclusion he cited as a curious fact that notwithstanding the amount of room available at Kowloon there was not a football club there.

Discussion ensued and on a vote being taken it was decided to form a league, the representatives of the Hongkong Football Club and of the Buffs voting against it.

Mr. Glover was appointed secretary pro tem to call a meeting of representatives.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE GRIFFINS.

The subscription griffins were drawn for on Monday afternoon with the following results:

- No. 1—Bay—J. Douglas.
- 4—Black—General Broadwood.
- 7—Nutmeg grey—Lieut. Wedd (Buffs).
- 8—Bay—F. H. May.
- 10—Grey—Lieut. Sill (Buffs).
- 14—Grey—Col. Bayard (Buffs).
- 18—Grey—J. Armstrong.
- 22—Bay—R. E. Toeg.
- 23—Bay—Lieut. Leleh, R.A.
- 24—Grey—Macdonald & Co.
- 33—Marble grey—A. Moir.
- 37—Bay Lieut. Moore, R.A.
- 41—Grey—Lieut. Hempill (Buffs).
- 42—Grey—W. J. Gresson.
- 44—Grey—C. H. Ross.
- 50—White—T. H. Forrest.
- 54—Dark grey—A. R. Lowe.
- 55—Bay—Lieut. Scarlet (Buffs).
- 56—Grey H. N. Mody.
- 59—Grey H. A. Seth.
- 61—Grey—J. R. M. Smith.
- 64—Black—F. B. Deacon.
- 66—Bay—T. F. Hough.
- 68—Grey—Bapt, Heathcote.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

November 23rd.

TO AVERT REVOLUTIONARY RISINGS.

Viceroy Chang has received a cablegram from the Grand Council at Peking to the following effect:—

"It has recently come to our knowledge that wild rumours are being spread of revolutionary movements, both in Peking and the Provinces of China. In the Palace, as well as in the City of Peking and its vicinity normal conditions prevail. Yesterday we received two Imperial Edicts in which everything was clearly explained and we have cabled same to you for your information.

"From inquiries made we have learnt that many bands of villains have returned to China from foreign countries and have secretly entered Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow and the Provinces of Kwangtung and Fookien. These villains have been circulating wild rumours in different places in the hope of inciting the merchants and the people both in China and abroad to start a revolution.

"The spreading of these wild rumours by them is causing considerable alarm in many places and it is feared that these rascals are seeking to promote a rebellion. Stern measures must therefore be adopted to guard against disturbances of whatsoever nature. We have already instructed the Wai-Wu-pu to communicate with and to tranquillize the minds of the Foreign Ministers in Peking, and we have despatched infantry and police with instructions to make thorough inquiries and arrest all such evilly-disposed persons.

"The officials of the the different Provinces must immediately inform the foreigners and make their minds easy on the subject. The officials must also pacify the people and exhort them not to listen to the rumours. Furthermore, the officials are requested to dispatch officers of the secret service to make strict inquiries in regard to this important matter and make the Police and soldiers responsible for the maintainance of good order by rigidly searching for and arresting all persons who are spreading rumours calculated to disturb the peace. They must make it their special object to rid their respective districts of this class of bad characters by having those they arrest most severely punished."

Upon receipt of the above the Viceroy after holding a consultation with the Tartar General has posted bannermen on the City walls and has instructed the Police to exercise special vigilance.

THE NATIONAL MOURNING.

Many of the Foreign Consuls here attended the celebration of the funeral rites at the Kwan Tai Temple. The Wong Wah Hall served that purpose in the City.

All I. M. Customs applications sent in by foreign firms are required to be stamped with blue ink instead of red during the mourning periods.

A RISING FOREIGN OFFICIAL.

I understand that a tariff of Native Customs dues is shortly to be issued. The lack of a tariff schedule has caused great inconvenience to the Chinese merchants. It is on Mr. F. L. Clyde's suggestion that the pamphlet is now to be issued. This official has identified himself already with practical reforms in his department on which he is to be highly complimented. Mr. Clyde was formerly a member of the Hongkong Detective force. He joined the I. M. Customs about two years ago and has received rapid promotion. He is well versed in the Cantonese dialect and reads and writes Chinese.

THIEVES AND THE MOURNING COMMANDS.

The snatching of gold earrings and bracelets has again become prevalent in the City. As the mourning regulations prescribe that no gold jewellery shall be worn, the police apparently show no disposition to arrest the thieves. I am informed that the Self-Government Association has reported the matter to the Viceroy and requested His Excellency to instruct the Chief of Police to cause all such thieves to be arrested and punished for robbery.

REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPH RATES.

Viceroy Chang has received a dispatch from the Board of Posts and Communications in Peking stating that the Chief Director of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration has reported to the Board that the telegraph rates in China are the highest in the world and that this observation has been frequently made by the Telegraph Departments of all the foreign countries. The merchants and the people (Chinese) have often complained of the high rates as detrimental to trade and commerce. In the public interest, therefore, the Board has by purchase acquired the telegraphs in China from the merchants and it has been decided to reduce the telegraph rates.

At present the Board has decided to reduce the current telegraph rates by 20 per cent. and this will also apply to Chinese and Foreign Press telegrams sent from one place to another in China. Telegrams sent to Foreign countries will not be affected by this reduction as the charges do not go entirely into China's purse.

An Imperial Edict has been issued sanctioning the reduction of the telegraph rates. The Board instructs His Excellency the Viceroy to notify the different Telegraph Departments in the Kwangtung Province of this order and also requests His Excellency to issue proclamations so that the officials, merchants, and the general public may know it.

I am informed by an official that the reduced rates will take effect from the 1st day of the first moon next year.

The Postal Commissioner will henceforth be in charge of the Telegraph Department here.

FOREIGN GUN PRACTICE WITHIN CHINESE TERRITORY.

It is reported that there has been some trouble near Macao between the Chinese Authorities and some American gunboats which had landed a party for gun practice. It is said that the Commissioner of Customs at Macao and the Heung Shan Magistrate have reported the affair to the Viceroy and His Excellency has referred the matter to Peking.

MISSIONARIES AND OFFICIALS.

The Magistrate of Lam Ko City in the Kin-Chow Prefecture has reported to the Viceroy that the British Consul has communicated to him that certain English missionaries intend to build a church in that city. The native people are suspicious and apprehensive regarding the intentions of the missionaries and there has been a good deal of wild talk amongst them. The British Consul requests the magistrate to explain matters to the people and disabuse their minds.

The Viceroy replied as follows:—I have noted the contents of your report. According to the Treaties foreign missionaries have the right to purchase land for the purpose of building churches and propagating the Christian religion in the interior of China. But the site selected and the church which they intend to build must not interfere in any way whatever with the houses of the native people. The church can only be built with the consent of the native people. The title deeds of the land must be valid and clear. If these rules are complied with they are at liberty to build the church. You have not, however, mentioned in the report the situation of the site selected, the name of the landlord who sold the property to the missionaries, whether the transfer of the property has been effected in compliance with the new regulations now in force, or whether the title deeds of the property are valid and clear. I instruct you to supply me with all the foregoing particulars as soon as possible so that I may decide the case. Meanwhile you are requested to inform the military officials to give adequate protection to the missionaries and to prevent the people from creating any trouble.

November 25th.

I. M. CUSTOMS.

There is dissatisfaction amongst a few clerks or "Wan-ans" of the Chinese staff of the I. M. Customs. There was a general increase in the salaries in the whole Customs Chinese staff but a few Wan-ans have been excepted; hence the murmuring.

NEW BANK NOTES

The Ta Ching Bank (Imperial Chinese Government Bank) here have issued notes that will have the same value as foreign bank notes. The notes can be cashed at any time. They will issue tael notes when the tael coins are put in circulation.

GAS FACTORY.

A wealthy merchant here, named Kwan Tsun Chew, has petitioned the Taotai of Industries for the privilege of building a Gas Factory to supply gas-lights to residents in the City of Canton. The capital is \$1,000,000. The Taotai has not yet sanctioned the privilege.

A CRANK'S DIVERSION.

A certain military official who has a grudge, no doubt, against Ex-Viceroy Shum is stamping on all the Hongkong and Shanghai bank notes that go through his hands the characters (斬岑春煊全家) i.e. "Behead Shum Chun Hun and his whole family."

THE NATIONAL MOURNING.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AT SHANGHAI.

In the Shanghai Courts of law the death of the Empress Dowager and the Emperor called forth expressions of sympathy with China in her double loss. At H.B.M.'s Supreme Court sympathy was expressed by the adjournment of the Court for the trial of Civil Cases on the motion of Mr. Douglas the senior member of the Bar present.

His Lordship (Mr. A. R. Vincent) said he was glad Mr. Douglas, as the senior member of the Bar present, had alluded to the sad occurrence in the manner he had. They have all heard of the sad occurrence with the greatest regret and as a mark of respect and an expression of sympathy with the Chinese people in their loss, the Court will stand adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

A criminal case had been set down for trial in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court but before the trial was proceeded with sympathetic references were made to the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager by the Crown Advocate and by Mr. F.S.A. Bourne, acting Judge.

On his Lordship taking his seat upon the bench at 10 a.m. Mr. H. P. Wilkinson (Crown advocate) spoke as follows:—It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of the ruler of this Empire. I submit, my Lord, that the highest mark of respect this Court can pay at the moment is for it to proceed with the administration of justice, especially in a case in which subjects of China are concerned.

His Lordship then rose to his feet and spoke as follows, all others present in court upstanding:—Mr. Crown Advocate. It should be recorded that this Court hears with the deepest regret of the death of the rulers of this country. If this had been a civil case the court would have adjourned as a mark of respect, but I agree with you it would be better to go on with the work of the Court.

The business of the Court was then proceeded with.

MR. DAVID LANDALE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY.

At the annual distribution of prizes of the S.V.C. at the Town Hall Mr. David Landale, Chairman of the Council, made reference to the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager in the following terms:—Ladies and Gentlemen:—Before we begin the business of this evening I would like to express on behalf of this Community our sympathy with the Chinese Nation in the loss they have sustained by the death of their august Majesties the Empress Dowager and the Emperor. Although the health of His Imperial Majesty for many years past has not been such as would admit of his taking active part in Public Affairs, we must none the less condole with his loyal subjects in the loss of their Sovereign. I am sure it is the sincere hope of all of us that his successor will be a strong and just ruler (Hear hear.) By the death of Her Majesty, the Empress Dowager, a great personality has passed away; she will ever be remembered for her strength of purpose, firmness in adversity, and in later years the enlightenment she has shown in dealing with affairs of state.

THE POLICE AND STATE MOURNING AT CANTON.

Recently some of the poor people at Canton who are either ignorant of the State mourning rites or too poor to replenish their wardrobes with mourning suits have been experiencing rather rough treatment in the streets at the hands of the police.

The other day a woman carrying a two-year old child on her back was passing near the Kwong-chow Prefect's Yamen when a policeman pounced upon the child and tore off a gaudy-coloured jacket made of foreign printed chintz. The poor little youngster was almost frightened to death and screamed with all his might.

Yesterday another woman who had some red string in her coiffure, was stopped by the police who tore the offending string from her hair.

Several coolies who wore old coloured European sweaters which had been purchased probably from second hand stores were requested by the police to take them off.

It is a general opinion that the police should exercise more discretion in the enforcement of the orders.

There is some trouble with the Crockery Guild who refused to lend ware for the decoration of the Kwan Tai Temple and the Wong Wah Hall where the ceremonies in connection with the deaths of the Emperor and Empress Dowager are held. The head of the Guild, named Lum Wah, has been arrested and confined in the Nam Hoi Prison and will be tried by the Nam Hoi Magistrate when the mourning is over. The Guild is now clamouring for the immediate release of Wong Wah. So far the officials have not released him. Tradition has it that on such occasions the merchants are to lend the necessary articles for the decoration of the Temple.

All the barbers' shops are closed here. Two days ago one of the fraternity was caught shaving a client in his shop. The police arrested both the barber and his client. The Magistrate ordered the barber to be flogged 40 strokes and sentenced his client to 100 days imprisonment with hard labour for shaving his head during the mourning period. As the offence is punishable by the capital sentence it is considered that the delinquents got off lightly.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

TIME LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION SET.

The Board of Posts and Communications, has notified the Canton Authorities that owing to the death of the late Emperor and Empress Dowager His Excellency Chang Chi Tung will not be able to proceed to Canton to investigate the Canton-Hankow Railway Co's affairs. The office which was recently established in Peking by Chang Chi Tung for this purpose has been abolished and the entire management of the Railway has been placed under the control of the Board. The Board has decided to depute three special delegates to proceed to the Provinces of Hupeh, Hunan and Kwangtung before the end of this year to investigate the financial position of the Canton-Hankow Railway companies in each of these provinces and also to ascertain the actual amount of work constructed in each province. The dispatch allows two years' time to the Kwangtung Company to complete its section of the line and three years are set for the completion of Hupeh and Hunan sections. If the capital is not fully subscribed by the shareholders of these three sections the Board of Posts and Communications will find the necessary funds for the construction of the entire line.

It is reported that His Excellency Chang Chi Tung has appointed Taotai Wong Ping Yan as Chief Superintendent of the Kwangtung section of the Canton-Hankow Railway, but, so far, the appointment has not been confirmed.

The Directors of the Company at Canton have announced to the public that a further extension of 15 days is allowed to the shareholders for the payment of the second instalment on the shares. The previous extension of two months expired on the 23rd instant. Telegrams to the above effect have already been sent abroad.

SUPREME COURT

Thursday, 26th November.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

[BEFORE THE FULL COURT.]

APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C. instructed by Mr. E. P. Lang (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) moved for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the judgment of the Full Court dismissing the appeal to set aside the verdict of the special jury in the case in which Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. were appellants, and Tung Lok Tong and others respondents.

Counsel referred to the Chief Justice's decision in the Appeal Court as justifying this application. In his opening his Lordship said the case contained questions of considerable importance, some of them travelling beyond the domain of familiar law, and it was proper that they should be submitted a second time to the Court. Then again he said the question which this case raised was one of considerable importance, and was one which he did not approach without considerable anxiety. Counsel concluded his address by saying that he respondents should give security for payment of the appellants' cost in the event of the Privy Council upholding the appeal.

The Chief Justice—They are not bound to. It has been a custom when judgments have been given for Counsel to say they are considering their position and that they want a stay of execution with regard to costs, as was done in this case, and the undertaking of the solicitor to repay the costs in the event of the appeal being refused. Neither the Puisne Judge nor myself are satisfied that that is the proper practice.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I don't think it is. The Chief Justice—At the same time we feel that there is a difficulty in dealing with this payment of costs between judgment and the time for applying to the Privy Council, and all we want to say now is that next time the question arises it must be fully argued.

Their Lordships granted leave to appeal, and left the question of security to be settled by the Registrar.

APPEAL AGAINST A MAGISTRATE'S DECISION.

The Colonial Treasurer v. H. Ruttonjee and H. G. Ruttonjee.

This case arose out of an alleged breach of section 23 of the Stamp Ordinance 1907, in which the defendants were charged with receiving three payments from one Stella Bromfield, without stamping the receipts.

The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C.), instructed by Mr. Dennys (of the Crown Solicitor's office) appeared for the appellant, while Mr. H. J. Ruttonjee appeared in person.

The Attorney-General said this was a case stated by the Magistrate under section 98 of the Magistrates Ordinance of 1890 in regard to a decision which he gave in a case in which the respondents were defendants. Their Lordships would observe that the learned Magistrate found in favour of the respondents, and he did so on the grounds that the receipts were given by servants acting within the ordinary scope of their duties. In addition however, to the cases cited before the Magistrate there were various other authorities, and, as far as he read the law, it appeared to be quite clear that where servants were acting within the scope of their authority, unless it could be shown they were doing something for their own benefit in which the master did not participate, the master was liable.

The Court expressed a desire to hear the respondent.

Mr. Ruttonjee said—I appear for my father and myself. We have been tried by a court of competent jurisdiction and discharged. We have been summoned here by the Crown to be retried on the same charge and appear under protest. If we had been convicted, we would willingly have paid any fine imposed on us. The fault, if any, is the fault of our servants. Our solicitor appeared for us and raised the defence that we are not liable for the acts of our servants. Under the circumstances the Magistrate took that view. We are informed by our solicitor that the Crown are proposing to

ask for costs in the event of the Magistrate's decision being reversed. We feel that we have taken our trial and been discharged; and that therefore we cannot be brought to this Court, and made to pay the costs of an appeal by the Crown against the decision of a Magistrate who is a Government Official. The appeal, I understand, is on a question of law, which only concerns us in so far as it concerns the community in general. We leave the matter in the hands of your Lordships with the repeated statement that we appear here because we are summoned and under protest.

The Chief Justice—What the respondent has just said I am afraid we cannot take account of. The law provides that if one party is dissatisfied with the decision of a Magistrate, a case may be stated for the further opinion of this Court. So far as the question is concerned, the ordinance imposes the duty to stamp a receipt. On whom does it impose it? On the person who receives the money. Who is the person who receives the money? The person who ultimately receives it, i.e., the person to whom it is due, and to whom it is, in fact, and in law, paid. To hold otherwise would defeat the object of the Ordinance. The duty being imposed on a certain person, it is his duty to comply with the Ordinance. He cannot evade liability to the penalty by allowing other persons to physically receive the money on his behalf, and who may or may not stamp the receipt. I doubt very much whether a servant would be liable, but I do not express any opinion on this point. There is no question of complicity—merely a question of breach of the Ordinance. Therefore, I am of opinion that the Magistrate's decision was wrong. The question goes back to the Magistrate now to impose a fine.

The Attorney-General—I assume your Lordships will remit the case to the Magistrate under section 109?

The Chief Justice—I think it is better that it should go back to the Magistrate as he knows the circumstances much better than we do. I will remit it back to the Magistrate to deal with in accordance with our opinion.

The Puisne Judge—In reference to the judgment of the learned Chief Justice, I have only to say that I think the principles "in the Attorney-General v. the Carlton Bank" fully cover this case. It does not seem necessary to express an opinion as to whether an assistant would be liable or not. Therefore I express no opinion.

The Chief Justice—Will the Crown press for costs?

The Attorney-General—This is a case in which the master of a shop endeavours to escape liability to the Crown.

The Chief Justice—But the Magistrate being in his favour, I only suggest that perhaps you won't.

The Attorney-General did not, and the Court remitted the case to the Magistrate with the expression of their opinion.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE ALLANA ESTATE.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman, trustee in bankruptcy, said this case was adjourned in order that he might consider what steps should be taken with regard to a certain deed. He understood that another petition against the same debtors had been filed, and the time for hearing that petition had not yet arrived. Therefore he would ask his Lordship to adjourn the case for a week. The other petition filed altered the state of things, and it could not then be heard as the eight days after service were not up.

Mr. John Hastings (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) said he appeared for the petitioner in the first petition. He did not understand what these proceedings were, as his Lordship had made a receiving order.

His Lordship—An interim receiving order.

Mr. Hastings—No. On my petition you made a receiving order.

His Lordship—Last time I think you argued that on presentation of the petition no other creditors had a *locus standi*. This case shows that on presentation of a petition other people may have a *locus standi*.

Mr. Hastings—I don't understand how another petition can be presented, for a receiving order has already been made.

His Lordship—I don't see why not: they may have to be consolidated afterwards.

The case was adjourned for a week.

A QUESTION OF DOMICILE.

Re Chan Yu San.

Mr. John Hastings represented the petitioning creditor, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared to oppose the petition.

Sir Henry Berkeley asked that the petition be dismissed on the ground that the personal requirements of the Bankruptcy Ordinance had not been fulfilled in the case of the debtor so as to render him liable to the jurisdiction of this Court.

His Lordship—I think the case now stands with Mr. Hastings.

Mr. Hastings—Your Lordship adjourned the case on the last occasion for further evidence, and directed that the Kwong Mau shop should be subpoenaed, so I suppose they must be called.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I take this objection to shorten the proceedings. Unless the evidence is directed solely in support of the petition, then there is no need to call any evidence. The petition rests its claim to the jurisdiction of the Court on the allegations that the debtor had a place of business in Hongkong.

His Lordship—There is an issue directed to see whether the man comes within the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Ordinance. The issue is really raised by your client, and he says this man is not domiciled, or within the jurisdiction of the Court. To clear up the point the partner of the Kwong Mau should be called.

Mr. Hastings—He is my friend's witness.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am not calling him for you. If you want him, call him.

After the evidence of the managing partner of the Kwong Mau had been taken.

Mr. Hastings said he did not admit that the debtor was foreign at all. On inquiring into the circumstances he was told that he had been resident in the Colony for three or four years, and that he went down to Annam annually to buy cinnamon. The debtor may have resided half the year in Annam and half the year in Hongkong, but that did not matter much. The facts admitted were that he brought goods from Annam regularly in order to sell them in Hongkong, and he did sell them in Hongkong. He could not see what his Lordship's doubt in the matter was. The case seemed absolutely plain, and to go far beyond the authorities quoted.

His Lordship—He must be a person to whom the Bankruptcy Act applies.

Mr. Hastings—I quite admit that.

His Lordship—The proposition is that unless he is a person subject to the laws of the Colony he is not subject to the Bankruptcy law.

Mr. Hastings—I quite agree with that. A foreigner who comes within the jurisdiction is not subject to the Bankruptcy law; a Britisher out of the jurisdiction, who commits an act of bankruptcy, is, because of his nationality. But a foreigner coming here temporarily and doing business here, if he commits an act of bankruptcy is subject to the jurisdiction.

His Lordship—I am very anxious to get this point settled. It came up a few years ago, but has never been mentioned since.

Sir Henry Berkeley said the question on which the decision of the Court would turn was merely one of fact. It was a question of fact, mingled with law, whether the man was domiciled here, and it was a question of fact whether he ordinarily resided here, whether he had a dwelling house and whether he had a business place here. It would be straining language to say that this casual visitor from Annam had a place of business in Hongkong.

Mr. Hastings—Sir Henry Berkeley confined his argument to a place of business, but I am not confined to that at all. I say he had a dwelling house.

His Lordship—I thought I indicated that a cubicle could not possibly be a dwelling house.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am quite prepared to deal with that view if your Lordship wants to hear me.

His Lordship—I don't.

Mr. Hastings—I don't see any difference in principle. No doubt this room was the man's castle, so to speak, and he paid \$8 a month rent.

I submit it is his dwelling house, also his ordinary residence. The question of his taking one room or fifty makes no difference.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

FOR TYPHOON SIGNALS.

PLAN FOR WIRELESS STATION ON BATANES ISLANDS.

A Bill is to be presented to the Philippine Assembly next session providing for the erection at Santo Domingo de Basco, Batanes Islands, of a wireless station for the benefit of navigation in general in the islands and in the China Sea. The special work that will be carried on will be that of sending to the Philippines and to China coast ports warnings of approaching typhoons.

A Manila contemporary states that the suggestion for the installation was made to the Governor General by the Governor of Hongkong. Batanes islands have been specially chosen as they stand at the extreme north of the archipelago and are in the line of all the typhoons that afflict these seas.

It will be remembered that Dr. Wilder, the U. S. Consul-General, on his return from the Philippines made public the suggestion for a wireless station on the Batanes Islands, as being Father Algue's idea of the best means of ensuring Hongkong against sudden visitations by typhoons.

THE YEAR'S TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"There still exists a tendency, particularly in commercial circles in Manila, to complain of hard times," says the Secretary of Commerce and Police in his annual report just released. He continues: In the last annual report of this department it was stated that commerce had taken a decided turn for the better; that the tone among the merchants in Manila was more settled and more optimistic; that this was not to be taken as indicating a condition of real prosperity, but as a good sign for the future.

"Two things however, during the year 1908 have somewhat retarded the progress towards real prosperity. The first of these is the shortage in the rice crop, due to the drought which caused the rice importations to rise from P7,324,986 to P11,722,512, an increase of 10 per cent. In the previous year there was a decrease of 16 per cent from 1906."

Commissioner Forbes goes on to show that rice importations have risen from P3,000,000 in 1899 to P11,000,000 in 1908. In 1904 they rose to P23,000,000.

"It is unfortunate," he continues, "that this shortage occurred at this time and made it necessary to send P11,722,512 out of the country for the purchase of the staple food commodity of the people which the country is easily capable of raising in quantities not only sufficient for its own needs, but also for export. The partial failure of this crop emphasized more than over the great need for extensive irrigation systems in the country."

"Since the American occupation there has been expended P120,321,386 for the importation of rice, one-half of which sum expended during that period of time for extensive irrigation systems would have put the country to-day in the condition of exporting rice instead of importing it."

The report further shows that during the ten years of American occupation both the imports and exports have been steadily increasing. In 1899 the imports stood at P26,000,000 and imports P29,000,000 from which they have increased to P61,000,000 for imports.

"In view of all this," the commissioner concludes, "the undersigned cannot believe there is any considerably backward movement, although the coming of really prosperous times is still deferred. Prosperity worthy of the country and its resources will not come until extensive road construction has been completed, irrigation works on a large scale installed, a revision of the sugar and tobacco tariff, and the United States accomplished the authorized railroad lines in full operation, and until adjustment has taken place between the old and the new economical conditions."

CHINA ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER IN LONDON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, October 28.

The annual dinner of the China Association was held last night in the the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole. It was largely attended and compared well with all previous gatherings of the Association. Most of the familiar faces connected with the Association were there, and some also not so often seen in London.

The members and guests were received by the President, Mr. J. H. Scott, before the dinner. The dining hall was tastefully decorated with a display of Japanese chrysanthemums and behind the chairman's seat the flags of Great Britain, China and Japan were entwined.

Taken all round, the gathering was a great success, though there were some awkward moments due to the determination of certain speakers to make long orations, despite the example and the appeal of the Chairman, who asked that the speeches should be short so that there would be more time for conversation. His scheme went all agley, and he was clearly displeased about it.

Supporting Mr. Scott at the Chairman's table were Sir Robert Hart, Sir Thomas Jackson, Sir Henry Blake, Sir Cecil C. Smith, General Sir Alfred Gaselee, Sir Charles P. Lucas, Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, Sir Francis Campbell, Sir Alfred Dent, General Sir O. Moore Creagh, Sir Montagu Turner, Sir Edward Fithian, Dr. Eccles, Messrs Henniker Heaton, M. P., T. H. Whitehead, W. Ryle Wright, W. Langley, H. Harrison, H. Hodge, R. S. Gundry, Admiral Swinton, C. Holland, Captain T. D. Jackson, Gershom Stewart, H. Pinckney, Byron Brennan, V. F. Brady, H. B. Morse, W. Cartwright, E. R. P. Moon, A. Diosy, W. H. Tottie, while at other tables were W. Adamson, C. S. Addis, T. F. Agar, C. G. Alabaster, H. J. Allen, B. F. Alston, L. Anderson, Alexander Anderson, T. C. Anderson, A. G. Angier, R. C. Antrobus, F. L. Baker, J. J. F. Bandinel, A. J. Barry, Sir John Wolfe Barry, K. Wolfe Barry, Montague Beart, H. N. Belchier, C. Peto Bennett, F. C. Bishop, W. C. Bishop, R. Blackwell, Robert H. Boyce, Vice-Admiral Sir G. T. B. Boyes, H. R. Boyd, H. F. Brady, A. S. Bremner, George Brown, Sir John McLeary Brown, Neillie Brown, Thomas Brown, J. Brownhill, Robert H. Bruce, H. G. Bunting, H. Fulford Bush, Alexander Campbell, A. St. Clair Campbell, A. R. Catlin, George Cawston, W. Chalmers, W. G. Clarke, J. W. Craik, S. W. Crapnell, W. A. Cruickshank, F. A. Cumming, J. F. Cunningham, G. Davies, L. R. Davies, P. V. Davies, S. Kennard Davis, J. N. Dawson, Herbert Dent, T. M. Dermer, W. W. Dickinson, C. W. Dickson, F. D'Iffanger, R. P. Dipple, G. B. Dodwell, Sir Charles Dudgeon, F. B. Hastwood, Gustav Eckhardt, N. J. Ede, Albert Ellis, E. G. Evans, John Ewart, G. V. Fiddes, W. Fisher, J. M. Flanagan, M. Fletcher, H. G. Forbes, Colin M. Ford, E. Gamman, A. S. Garfit, Anthony George, W. Gibson, J. Gilfillan, S. Gilfillan, James Graham, G. L. Grattan, R. M. Gray, H. A. Gwynne, E. H. Hancock, H. S. Hancock, E. A. Hankey, J. C. Hanson, J. S. Happer, J. R. Harding, Horace G. Harwood, William Harwood, A. H. Heath, C. R. W. Heath, A. E. Hippisley, A. V. Hogg, T. A. Holland, Edgar J. Houle, Sam Hughes, E. L. Hunter, H. E. R. Hunter, George Jamieson, J. W. Jamieson, G. F. Johnson, Dr. J. Johnson, H. H. Joseph, Walter Judd, Henry Keswick, William Keswick, M. P., C. H. King, H. Kopsch, J. E. Dick Lauder, F. Leyburn, A. D. Lowe, J. M. Macdonald, J. J. Macgregor, James McIsaac, Charles Mackintosh, J. S. Mackintosh, Frank Maitland, J. A. Maitland, Major Maitland, C. E. Marshall, F. J. Marshall, F. J. Mayers, J. R. Michael, J. D. Monro, H. S. Morris, Henry Morris, J. K. Morrison, F. P. Nathan, A. P. Nazer, E. C. Nesbitt, R. De Neufville, H. C. Norris, A. C. Oliphant, J. Orange, E. Osborne, John H. Osborne, E. H. Oxley, C. M. Palmer, A. Paterson, Joseph W. Patten, J. H. Perry, W. H. Poate, G. H. Potts, H. Pound, Hon. C. H. Rason, W. E. Reeve, C. Reichardt, Dr. D. J. Reid, John Richards, R. L. Richardson, H. W. Robertson, W. Bruce

Robertson, W. S. Robilliard, J. Roselli, H. J. Rothwell, J. Lunge, E. W. Rutter, C. V. Sale, George Sale, V. M. Sale, F. Salinger, H. Salinger, E. D. Sanders, P. Savile, B. C. G. Scott, T. P. Searight, W. Shakspeare, C. S. Sharp, W. H. Shelford, H. J. Shepard, J. M. Shields, J. Silverston, G. Mackrill Smith, P. Y. Smith, Frank Souther, N. J. Stabb, E. A. Stanton, A. P. Stokes, Frank O. Stuart, John Swire, Sir Henry Tanner, J. M. Taylor, J. H. Teesdale, C. Temperley, J. Temperley, J. Tetley, A. B. Tomkins, B. G. Tours, A. M. Townsend, F. F. Turner, George T. Veitch, Fred Ward, J. C. Ward, W. C. Ward, Dr. James Watson, A. G. M. Weale, D. Wehrschmidt, Joseph Welch, E. S. Wheeler, H. Whistler, A. F. White, H. C. Wilcox, R. C. Wilcox, H. Wilcockson, A. J. Williams, James Wilson, J. Denniston Wilson, V. D'O. Wintle, Carl Wolter, A. G. Wood, Dr. E. Wood, Thomas Worthington, G. M. Young, and A. Zimmermann.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured on the call of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. J. H. SCOTT gave the toast of "Prosperity to the China Association."

He said it had been the practice of many of the gentlemen who had filled that chair on previous occasions to review at some length, in proposing that toast, the more important matters that had engaged the attention of the committee during the year. That example he did not intend to follow—(Applause)—for he held the opinion that assemblies of that kind were intended to be social functions. They were intended to afford an opportunity for members of the Association to foregather with those they knew in the Far East and to cement and renew the friendships then formed. (Applause). Further, he thought that the business part of the Association was better dealt with at the annual meeting and that the business that had been done during the year should be commented upon by the chairman at that annual meeting. Such being the case he would not detain them long, but it might be useful to give a few facts and figures that went to show that the Association had been prosperous. (Applause). Some twenty years ago it occurred to a certain number of late residents in China, prominent among them being Sir Alfred Dent, Mr. William Keswick, and Mr. Gundry, that it would be desirable to found a Society to bring together old residents in China, so that they might meet and renew their friendships and keep in touch with the country where they had spent many years. The result of their efforts culminated in a dinner, a China Dinner, held in the beginning of March, 1889, and at which some 130 gentlemen connected with China were present. As a result of that dinner the Association was formed and put upon good lines of working. At a meeting held shortly after its formation the committee was chosen and it elected Mr. William Keswick as Chairman, and Mr. Gundry very kindly undertook the honorary secretaryship. (Applause). It was needless for him to tell them of the good work done by those gentlemen during the twelve or fifteen years in which they were engaged with it in those capacities. (Applause). The all knew that it was almost solely due to the devotion and hard work done by Mr. Gundry that the Association had attained the position in occupied at present—(Applause)—for he did not think if they had searched the whole wide world they could have found a man more eminently equipped for the position than Mr. Gundry. He was imbued with China from his crown to his feet and what he did not know about the subject was not worth knowing. It was owing to him that they had attained a standing with a great Government Department, for to that end he had devoted all his energy, tact and knowledge. Well, the Association was rapidly getting out of its stage of infancy, for he might tell them their next dinner would celebrate their coming of age (Applause). They would agree with him that the Association was not merely a healthy infant, but would develop into a very powerful manhood. The membership of the Association had steadily increased. At the end of the first year there were 110 members only. That number grew and in five years there were over three hundred members. At the end of the tenth year they had 550 members, and at present he was glad to report that they had a thousand members on the

roll (Applause.) Many of the members were outstanding commercial men associated with China, Governors who had been engaged with the administration of Hongkong, and all sorts and conditions of men who had spent a great portion of their lives in China. It was the parent society and was supported in the East by branches formed at different times, in Hongkong, Shanghai, Tientsin, and Japan. By those branches the committee was kept in touch with all that was going on in China, and facts as to commerce and trade with this country were kept up to date. Nothing in any way affecting their interests in China was neglected by the Committee: anything brought before them by the branches was taken up by the Committee at once and everything was done to forward the view of those on the spot in China and Japan. He thought that in the hands of the capable men who had succeeded the first officials of the Association they could rely on the Association continuing to prosper—(Applause)—and he was perfectly certain that those who came after would look back and regard with appreciation the benefit that had been done by those who had the happy idea of starting the Association (Applause). Instead of listening to longer speeches it was better to leave time for friendly conversation afterwards—(Loud applause)—and if some disagreed with that view he hoped they would give him credit for being whole-hearted in his belief on that head—(Applause)—He had already had an opportunity of shaking hands with many men whom he had not seen for many years, and it was with a keen sense of pleasure that he met them.

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, winding up with a "Tiger." There was no response to the toast.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART said the ruling of the chairman as to the brevity of speeches placed him in a difficult position, but then he was proposing the toast of the Association and naturally was modest. But he (the speaker) had to propose the health of the Guests and might be given a little more latitude. He felt he had behind him to the last man every member of the Association when he proposed the toast. Whatever differences of opinion they might have, they from China were united to the core when it came to hospitality—(Applause). It was a legacy that had been handed down to them, and seed had been sown on good ground, so that the work was still going on and the lamp of hospitality was still burning brightly. When he received the list of guests he could not help feeling a justifiable pride that their gathering attracted such distinguished company. It would only be making trouble for himself if he talked of the eminence of these gentlemen, or especially mentioned any where all were of such transcendent merit. The Japanese, who studied procedure and ceremony, placed the warriors first, the agriculturists second and then last of all came the merchants and the traders—(Laughter). With the British he believed those who attended to the business of the next world, the clergy, came first, then the officers of the civil administration, then the warriors, and the rest nowhere—(Laughter). He grieved to see that the first class was not well represented that night, but after the devout and earnest way the chairman had said grace it could only be added that their place had been well filled—(Laughter). In regard to the civil administrators he saw an array of gentlemen responsible in their high positions for the government of the country. As he might not have an opportunity of gathering so many of them together again he was going to rush in where angels feared to tread and combine a little business with pleasure. He would say a word in their ear in confidence, especially those gentlemen concerned with the Board of Trade. He wished to ask their good offices in certain possible circumstances. He was not going to throw the apple of discord into that happy throng or criticise what was a law, actual or in the making. It was still in the clouds, and long might it remain there. In the debate on the last Budget a certain member, a very clever and persuasive member made the novel and unpleasant suggestion that the income tax on money invested in foreign countries should be increased. That, he felt, would come home to many members of the Association round those tables—(Hear, hear). It was a

proposal they could hardly greet with undiluted enthusiasm—(Applause). It was hardly with that idea that the man who had spent the best years of his life perhaps in keeping open the door to British trade in China and Manchuria, and being often severely pinched in the process, turned homeward. It was not exactly the picture he had in his mind that as soon as he turned homeward to lay his ashes with those of his forefathers, he was to be met on the wharf by a rubicund and portly member of the Excise who had evidently never suffered from malaria and perhaps had never even seen a mosquito, with the demand "Ten per cent. of your money or I will make the rest of your life a burden to you!" (Applause).

If the officials present would look around they would see men of substance, many of them, but certainly all men of merit—(Laughter and applause)—with simple faith and child-like simplicity, and even those who had fallen from grace slightly, still clung to the hope that the promises told them in their youth were true, especially that one that ran "And the wind shall be tempered to the shorn lamb"—(Laughter and applause.) All of them had many and various causes for going to the seat of benevolence and mercy, but they did not want to have reason for being unduly importunate, nor did they wish to be shorn any closer than their neighbours—(Hear, Hear). It might be that some of them who had lived in British Colonies might be allowed to scrape in to the present financial paradise of a shilling in the pound, but that was a kind of colonial preference that they did not want at all. They all belonged to one piece, they had all been to the place where the sun rises, they were imbued with the sense of good fellowship and they would sink or swim together—(Applause). They did not take the attitude of the Scotch minister who spoke to an inattentive gathering as follows: "You may hope to climb into Heaven on my coat tails but I tell you at the Day of Judgment I shall wear a jacket" (laughter). Thus they of Hongkong did not wish to leave their brethren of the China Ports to be mulcted under any two-shillings-in-the-pound scale. He was sure the Foreign and Colonial Office, would give the members of the Association a good character, and he hoped the officials present if the evil day came would give them their protection. He spoke with bated breath before many governors of Colonies, but they and many of these present would know that they in the Colonies had a profound belief in the inertia of government departments when views were propounded to them that did not commend themselves to their judgment (Applause). He apologised for using the word "Protection," but they were all united in its favour when it came to the protection afforded by the force of the Crown. First, as to the senior service. He was truly glad to see there Admiral Sir Gerard Noel. They knew him well in the East and they liked him, as one of the finest specimens of British oak. All in China would remember in the Russo-Japanese war what reliance they placed in the British fleet under his command. They knew it was ready for any emergency. Now that he had been changed to a station at the Nore, they knew he would keep his eye on the North Sea. If the clouds gathering there came to a point where they had to be met by the fleet he felt sure they would be given a reception suitable to the occasion, and their distinguished guest and his men would do their duty brilliantly. When it came to the Army it was a more difficult matter to know where they stood, for it was in a continually changing state. The Volunteer had disappeared altogether. How many men they had he did not know in the new Territorials. He believed some people professed to know but he did not think they did. The military correspondent of the *Times* last week was most hazy about it and if he did not know who could be expected to do so? But now they were filling up the forces from the ranks of the unemployed. (Laughter.) They only heard last night that while the inexperienced and untrained unemployable was coming in at the door the trained reservist was going out at the window to the end of the universe.—(Laughter). Were they wise in waiting till bad times in trade came to recruit their forces? With the "mailed" fist on the horizon, treaties torn up before their eyes, India

restless and the Cape an unknown quantity, surely it was becoming more and more important to make sure of their strength and their preparedness, to hold their wide territories intact. However they hoped the new army would approximate in some degree to the old soldiers of the past who had made their history one of great deeds: in drinking to the toast they would remember the old army and hope for the best for the new army. They had many distinguished members of both services present. On behalf of the Association he extended to them a most sincere and hearty welcome. (Applause.)

Admiral Sir GERARD NOEL was very heartily cheered on rising to respond. After complimentary references to the Association he proceeded to say that China was of all parts of the world the most interesting. He was first there forty-two years ago, and probably few members of the Association could go so far back. Then he was recently there as Commander-in-Chief and most thoroughly did he enjoy that period. He was not merely interested in the Russo-Japanese war, but the friendship of many in China was a very agreeable memory. China as a nation was undergoing very great changes. He had been very anxious on many occasions as to what might happen on the rivers. His report home was that for perhaps five years or longer until the railways had been fully extended, there was great liability of trouble in China. He was seriously distressed when just before he left the station they removed a large number of his small craft, but he was thankful to know that several had been replaced—(Applause). He would like to say a few words on the commercial aspect. He held that one of the most important things for British commerce in China was the railway terminating at Kowloon. If that was fully developed and in connection with its lines of railways were run throughout Southern China, Hongkong would have an extraordinary revival (Applause). He thanked them all cordially on behalf of the guests for their warm welcome—(Applause).

Mr. C. V. SALE in proposing the health of the Chairman, attributed his selection as the proposer to his connection with the British Association of Japan, an association now working as a branch of the China Association in the Island Empire of the Pacific. It was a matter for much satisfaction that several members of the Japan Committee and several of the first promoters of the Japan branch were present that night (Applause). He would merely make brief mention of the feelings of warm regard and high esteem in which the President was held. The large attendance and the enthusiastic reception of the toast required no emphasis. In the realms of commerce they looked upon him as the exemplification of that persistent and persevering, cautious but enterprising, Scottish character, which had contributed so much to the extension of British influence. What would the Empire be without the pioneer effort of the Scotsmen? (Applause). What would the British share of the Eastern trade be without their upbuilding work? And what would the authority of the China Association be without the public spirited sympathy and co-operation of men of whom "Our Scott" was a leading example. It augured well for the future success of the Association that one engaged in many of the greatest enterprises supporting British commercial prestige in the East should give so freely of time and thought to the promotion of the general welfare. (Applause). As a newcomer he would take that opportunity of saying how greatly he appreciated the privilege of membership in a Society founded and supported by those who thus showed their earnest and thorough belief in the virtue and efficacy of organised self help. In the present day there was far too little of that belief. The State was apparently expected to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the individual, the Government was increasingly regarded as the only source of all initiative and enterprise, the fountain of employment and the universal provider for every want from infancy to old age (Applause). Those of them who had been in and beyond the "outposts of Empire" knew that the Commonwealth of Greater Britain, its vast extent of trade and the far reaching influence was not reared upon such ideas. (Applause). They were convinced that the

maintenance of the trust bequeathed to them still rested, and always would rest, upon individual effort and achievement. At the same time the complex conditions of modern life and the annihilation of distance brought those individual efforts so closely together that they might be likened to a continuous chain—link within link—of reciprocal interests and the China Association might be said to represent the combined strength of that Far Eastern chain. (Applause.) It was that wider view of reacting wants and interests which induced the members of the British Association of Japan to join their forces with those of the China Association. In the enthusiasm and energy of the members of the Japan branch, now numbering about 250; the China Association had acquired a valuable asset. It was true that China because of her greater possibilities loomed larger in the public eye than Japan, but from the present trade volume point of view there was not much difference. He found in 1907 the exports of British products to China including Hongkong were valued at fifteen and a half millions sterling, and to Japan, during the same period, at twelve and a half millions. Besides there was no question as to the lead already secured by Japan in the Councils of Far eastern policy, and so there could be no doubt that the presence in that country of a strong and representative membership would be found of great advantage to the Central Committee sitting in London. On the other side, the advantage of an influential and well-organised London support was fully appreciated by the members of the British Association of Japan. Above all they looked beyond their own immediate problems and foresaw the importance of united effort in determining the answer to the pressing question set forth by the author of "The Coming Struggle in Eastern Asia." Those who had read the book would remember the significance of the closing lines "Eastern Asia is once more on the eve of great events. What part shall England play?" That was the question to which members of the China Association, because of their commercial interests in China, Japan, and Korea, must largely determine the answer. Nearly fifty years ago Sir Rutherford Alcock, the first British Minister to Japan, answering a similar question with reference to the same countries, wrote:—"What British interests are at the present day, and what the sole object of our policy, needs no explanation. Commerce is, with us, the one sole object." In the half century since those words were written, many proofs of their honesty of purpose and sincerity of intention had been given both to China and Japan, proofs which ought to carry weight in all future discussions affecting mutual rights that that statement regarding the scope of British interests in the Far East remained just as true to-day as it was fifty years ago. They sought no selfish advantage, they did not want political control, they had no ambition for territory. But they did claim reciprocity—the liberty and the right to carry on their trade in a fair field and with no favour (Applause). With such a policy and with such long standing proofs of its continuity, the goal at which they aimed was perfectly clear. It was the removal by peaceful means of all the obstacles, natural or artificial, to the easy and free exchanges of commerce; the removal of all discriminations or subventions which made for unequal or unfair competition. (Applause.) Such a policy must redound at least as much to the benefit of the people of the East as to themselves and when widely known and as fully understood as it should be—and in that regard each member of the China Association could render good service—it entitled them to the fullest benefits of the open door without any question. (Applause.) It was in that connection that the China Association justified its existence. As a co-operative body permitted to voice the needs of the members to the responsible officers of His Majesty's Government they could say what they wanted and what they did not want, and so exert an influence in securing conditions necessary to their purposes. It was the only form of representation possessed by the commerce of vast and varied extent; the figures relating to the share of the British Empire in the imports and exports of

Eastern Asia though totalling the huge sum of sixty millions sterling or thereabouts gave but a partial idea of the large British interests concerned in the trade, shipping, insurance and finance, of the most populated portion of the world's surface. But just because the China Association enjoyed the privilege and opportunity of exercising such an influence, just so it was necessary that the opinions advanced should be right opinions, enlightened and guided by knowledge, and no blind judgments based on ignorance or misapprehension. That brought them back once more to personal responsibility, a responsibility which could not be too strongly urged on every member, especially those who were on the fighting line ten thousand miles away, for on them would rest the progress or the downfall of British trade and commerce in Eastern Asia.

There never was a time when Eastern affairs were in a more interesting state of flux, never a time when the consequences at stake were so great. To rightly appreciate and prepare for the developments that would inevitably follow, an inquiring, friendly and sympathetic attitude of mind was absolutely necessary. The Chinese language school, in the promotion and progress of which the President had taken a prominent part, was an excellent step in that direction. No better commencement would be made by the envoys of British commerce towards acquiring a facility for accommodation to new circumstances, an insight into local conditions, an access to the minds and hearts of the people among whom they treated, than by securing a knowledge of the language. The Japan branch, recognising the importance of this fact had prepared a scheme covering a course of study divided into six stages extending over three years. Certificates were granted for each stage successfully passed. These certificates were not only proofs of knowledge but undeniable evidences of earnestness and industry. The scheme had been in operation only a few months but already a great obstacle was seen in the uncertainty that often surrounded the stay of an employe in Japan. So many firms regarded their Eastern staffs as interchangeable between the different countries. In these days that was undoubtedly a mistake. Conditions of trade and general surroundings in Japan were totally different to those prevailing in China or elsewhere, and each country required a special experience, the longer the better. The days of the intermediary compradore or hanto had almost passed away in Japan, and to secure successful and satisfactory business it was now more and more necessary to possess a personal acquaintance with clients, and a working knowledge of the language. No interpreter, however able, could make up for the lack of those acquirements. On account of this need for personal touch between the British merchant and his Japanese constituents for an understanding of each other's ways of thought it seemed advisable that those employed by British firms in Japan should be encouraged to consider themselves as permanently established and not subject to sudden transfer to another sphere where their knowledge, to gain which they might have spent considerable work and thought and self denial, would be thrown away and might prove even a hindrance. Those who were working amidst the changing conditions of the East might easily fail to realise the great differences which had taken place, and the still greater differences to which they must look forward. As an illustration of their vital and important character, they might look at the comparison between Japan's distrustful antagonism of fifty years ago and the sentiment expressed in the rescript issued on the 14th October of this year by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. For instance, "East and West are dependant on one another for the promotion of mutual welfare. On this account we should endeavour to cultivate friendship with other nations. At the same time it is highly important that we should be united with other countries in advancing industries." Fifty years ago Japan in her weakness would fain have shut the door to Western trade. To-day Japan in her strength sent forth that invitation to co-operate in the peaceful arts of Commerce. A change which in view of the commercial tendencies of the people they might reasonably hope would bring about similar

results, was now taking place in China—a change, or rather a revolution promising in its consequences to be the greatest revolution the world had ever seen, politically, socially, economically, reconstructing the entire basis of national life. It was a satisfaction to know at such a time that the President was shortly leaving to visit the scene of these important developments and they all wished him a safe journey, a pleasant visit and a safe return, to give again to the Committee of the Association the benefit of his wise and experienced counsel. (Applause.)

Mr. SCOTT in replying referred to the President of the Association as a mere figure head, but loud cries of "No" met the declaration. He proceeded to mildly reprimand the speakers who had avoided his example by speaking lengthily and had thereby reduced the time available for friendly conversation afterwards. At any rate he hoped that the officials to follow in years to come would take heed of his words that such a gathering was intended to be a social one and not one for lengthy speeches.

Mr. SCOTT was much cheered and the toast was greeted with musical honours.

After that there was a short reunion of old friends in the reception room and then the gathering dispersed.

TWO EASTERN BISHOPS RESIGN.

Dr. Fyson, after thirty-four years' service in Japan, has resigned the Bishopric of the Hokkaido. He went out to Japan as a C. M. S. Missionary in 1874. Some years later he became principal of the C. M. S. Theological College at Osaka, and was consecrated Bishop in 1896. Dr. Fyson has now become rector of Elmley Lovett, Drostwich.

The Rev. Bishop Hose, who is now in London, has resigned the Bishopric of Singapore, Labuan, and Sarawak. Dr. Hose first came to the East as Colonial Chaplain of Malacca in 1868. He was appointed Colonial Chaplain of Singapore in 1873, and two years later became Archdeacon of Singapore. He became Bishop in 1881. The retiring Bishop is 70 years of age, and as these short biographical notes show, forty years of his life have been spent in the East.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, November 24th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1200/1210 per picul
Malwa Old	\$1220/1230 do.
Malwa Older	\$1240/1250 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1260/1270 do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$870 do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$950 do.
Patna New	\$1100 per chest.
Patna Old	\$1140 do.
Benares New	\$1040 do.
Benares Old	\$— do.

HONGKONG, Nov. 26th.—Since the 12th instant, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa Patna, Benares, Persian				
Stocks on the 12th Nov., 1908	1,016½	2,302	1,075	943
Nov. 12th Imports per C. Appear	—	501	310	—
" 18th " " Namsung	—	201	160	—
" 25th " " Kamsung	—	570	255	—
	1,016½	3,574	1,800	943

Less Exports to Shanghai	—	201	—	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	95½	317	263	41

Estimated Stocks this day .. 921 3,057 1,537 902

Bengal.—We have to report an exceedingly dull fortnight deliveries have fallen off and prices are nominal at \$1140, for Old Patna and \$1040, for N. Benares. New Patna \$1100. There are reports current that the importation of Opium to America has ceased and trade with Swatow is disorganized owing to some restrictions having been imposed upon the sale of raw opium by the Officials.

Malwa.—Dull.

Persian.—We quote superior drug at \$950. At which prices some sales have been effected.

SUGAR.

Yokohama 16th November. Prices here for refined are 20 to 30 sen per picul below the parity of the supplying markets.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th November.—The upward tendency continues, market being firm.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.50 to \$5.60
" Round, Good quality	5.10 to 5.15
" Long	5.45 to 5.50
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	5.05 to 5.10
" Garden, " No. 1	5.20 to 5.35
" White,	5.40 to 5.45
" Fine Cargo	5.95 to 6.15

SAIGON.—Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their latest circular dated Saigon 13th Nov., report:—Our last circular was issued on the 16th ultimo and the latest posted advices received since are as follows:—Hongkong 10th instant, Yokohama 30th ultimo, Manila 6th inst, Java 6th instant, Singapore 9th instant and London 16th ultimo:—

No 2 White sifted (trid) steam milled round	3.53
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	3.15
5 % Cargo steam milled round	3.05
10 % Cargo steam milled round	2.95
20 % Cargo steam milled round	2.95

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

The following is a statement of this year's Exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy:—

Destination.	Total pcs.
Hongkong	2,715,800
Shanghai	76,400
Ningpo	45,300
Manila	1,070,800
Iloilo	124,000
Cebu	496,700
Japan	1,765,100
Singapore	751,100
Batavia	125,900
Samarang	140,800
Passoeran	64,000
Sourabaya	1,136,600
Cheribon	75,000
Noumea	21,000
Reunion	340,200
Mauritius	46,800
Europe	3,281,100

Total .. 12,279,660

Same period of last year .. 16,218,200

Tonnage.—Quotations stand as follows: 8 cents to Hongkong; 18 to 19 cents to Java; 19 to 20 cents to the Philippines; 19 to 20 cents to Japan and 11 to 12 cents to Singapore.

Charters.—The following are the settlements:—Bourbon, French str., 26,000 piculs to Hongkong at 8 cents per picul, Laertes, British str., 32,000 piculs to Hongkong at 8 cents per picul.

Exports during the month of white rice cargo rice and paddy have been:—

	piculs
Hongkong	35,700
Manila	155,200
Cebu	47,700
Singapore	80,300
Sourabaya	163,900
Cheribon	34,700
Reunion	136,700
Mauritius	46,800
Europe	105,300
Total	806,300

COAL.

HONGKONG, Nov. 28th.—The arrivals of coal since the 1st inst. amounted to only 33,221 tons of Japanese. The only coal expected is 27,400 tons of Japan coal. There have been no sales of any importance in the interval. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$20 to \$— ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$10.50 ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 ex ship, nominal.
Muki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, sellers.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. of Shanghai in their latest Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 20th November, states:—Since our last Report was p-nned events of paramount importance have taken place in China which almost entirely obliterated for the time being all interest in this market. The double tragedy of the deaths of the Emperor Kwang Shu and the Empress Grand Dowager within a few hours of one another was a quite unlooked for event, although it was known some time previously they had both been ailing. However, with whatever surprise the news came to the outside world everything seems to have been arranged in readiness in the Imperial Palace, and one cannot but help admiring the studied preparations that were made to lessen the shock to the Empire, and prevent the outbreak of disturbances that are looked upon as the necessary adjunct to the change of rulers in an Eastern Empire. The arrangements made appear to fall in with the views generally of the trading classes at all events, but it cannot be expected that there will not be bickerings amongst the rival factions that are known to exist, but which have been kept under control by the strong personality of the Lady who has been the actual ruler of China for upwards of forty years. Now that her influence is removed great changes must rapidly take place, but possibly not without considerable opposition from the remains of the old conservative party that still exists and exerts all their efforts in favour of the reactionaries and opponents to Foreign intercourse and progress. Until that struggle is over a period of uncertainty and want of confidence must prevail. Credit will continue to be curtailed and what business is done will simply be from hand to mouth. The latest news from Peking falsifies entirely the outrageous rumours that were freely current here yesterday, and which quite outdid the incidents of the Boxer outbreak. It is true there is considerable trouble going on within the Forbidden City which is surrounded by troops, but the high officials are known to leave it and attend meetings of the Waiwupu to confer with the representatives of the Foreign Powers. Runs on the Native Banks by private depositors who wished to withdraw their money has caused great trouble, and it is reported that over fifty have closed their doors in Peking, but that does not affect the trade of the country. The foreign drilled troops which are at present in one of the Yangtse Provinces for the annual manoeuvres have been ordered to remain there and carry out the original programme, and the presence of the Legation guards in Peking should be sufficient to prevent any fan-tic outbreak. The Foreign Banks here, whose attention has been required for events nearer home, are coping with the monetary situation in a liberal spirit, and although interest with the Native Institutions is very high, their funds having been greatly reduced, to a large extent owing to the recklessly extravagant manner of living of certain sections of the Native community during recent years, it is hoped that the present stringency will be over come shortly, and that money for legitimate trading purposes may soon be available again. Further financial disasters in Hankow has not helped the situation, so that altogether the week has been a very gloomy one. Fresh business with Importers has been practically out of the question, and the manner in which clearances are going on of former purchases, namely package by package, plainly shows the state of penury in which the trade finds itself. It was thought at one time that as it is an ill wind that blows no one any good the demise of the rulers of China might have created a demand of certain classes of goods—in fact it was reported at an early date that such a demand had arisen and native holders had been able to turn their stocks over at handsome profits. If this was really so the enquiry was soon satisfied, for no demand of an extraordinary nature has reached Importers. Some few transactions took place amongst the natives here early in the interval in American goods for Newchwang, which Port is expected to close on the 4th December. The transactions were mostly of a retail nature, but show a distinct increase in values. For other Ports business is at a standstill in Piece goods, though Yarns keep in good request at very firm prices. The Manchester market is steady to firm and we hear of a few transactions in staple goods being booked for the Spring. Single Yarns are now quoted nine pence for 8's, 2 fold 9½d to 9½d and 3-fold 10d. The Liverpool market is steady for Mid American at 5.02d. for spot, 4.55d. November and 4.72d. February March. Egyptian 8½d. The New York quotation for March option comes to-day 8.97

cents. The market there is firm, and it is said all the available 3 yard goods have been cleared off the market. Clifton C C C is quoted 10s. 4½d. for March shipment and Enterprise A has been bought for this market at 10s. 1d. and some 3.25 yard at 9s. 7d. It was rumoured, but we can get no confirmation of it, that quite a large quantity had been bought for this market. The Yarnmarket has been fairly active and prices have further advanced. Native Cotton is quite firm and holders seem determined to keep it so. Last Thursday's Auction went at quite steady to firm prices for all staple goods, the Fast Blacks showing a slight irregularity. At this morning's sale there was very little change, prices if anything being slightly in favour of the sellers. Woollens look very uncertain, prices being all in and out. In American Sheetings small quantities of the following have changed hands amongst the Natives:—3.25 yard King E E and Soldier on Horse Tls. 4.10, 3 yard Eagle and 2 Flag U.S.A. Tls. 4.45, Piedmont and Cabot A. Tls. 4.45, Man's head in Circle and Blue Joss Tls. 4.50, Abbeville and Loray A. Tls. 4.60 and Buck's Head Tls. 4.70. There is some doubt about the Loray A. as it is known that a holder tried to sell yesterday at Tls. 4.55 but could not get it offered. In American Drill's a small parcel of Pepperell is reported as sold at Tls. 5.10 and some Beng 1.3 yard at Tls. 4.55. Clearances of both makes have been very slow. The Steamer that left yesterday for Newchwang is said to have taken about 1,800 bales. Further sailings may take place if the inducement is sufficient.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 27th November, states:—Much less demand has been experienced in this Market throughout the past fortnight but this has been expected as the whole country is now busily engaged in gathering the rice harvest which is rapidly approaching completion. Apart from this temporary depression trade has been almost paralyzed by the announcement of the demise of the Emperor and Empress Dowager and consequent apprehensions of political disturbances throughout the Empire. So far the country has been quiet and further developments are waited for with the greatest anxiety. Meanwhile business is at a complete standstill, but the market may be said to close firmer, as a considerable forward business at much higher prices is reported from Bombay, and stocks here are small comprising principally unsaleable goods. Sales of the interior aggregate 3,909 bales, arrivals amount to 9,164 bales; unsold stock estimated at 13,000 and sold but uncleared yarn landing and in godowns 22,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Still without inquiry. Japanese Yarn:—Shortness of supply and higher prices ruling in the home markets render business impracticable. Raw Cotton:—Appears to move very slowly, and only 50 bales New Bengals are reported to have changed hands at \$26 per picul, leaving the market bare of stock. In China Kinds 150 bales Thoongchow were sold at \$27½. Stock about 100 bales. To-day's quotations are New Bengals \$24 to \$26½, old \$22 to 24½, and China \$25 to 28. Exchange on India has been fluctuating between Rs. 131 and Rs. 128 and closes unsteady to-day at Rs. 127½ for T/I and 128 for Post. On Shanghai 75½ and on Japan 82½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 22nd instant, viz:—Indian:—Total sales aggregate about 5,500 bales which were effected during the first three days of the interval at or about previous prices. Subsequently the political position in China has upset business. Estimated unsold stock about 15,000 bales. Market closing firm. Japanese:—Total sales about 500 bales on the basis of Tls. 96 to 105 for No. 16s. and Tls. 104½ to 113 for No. 2's. Close strong with meagre stock. Local:—Demand continues strong, but in view of the large unfulfilled previous contracts still on hand spinners are unable to meet buyers. Sales about 400 bales at Tls. 68 for No. 10s. and Tls. 96 for No. 16s.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

Yokohama 16th Nov.—Cotton Yarn.—The recent business has fallen away entirely, but, with the end of the strike in view, if not absolutely settled, the tendency is upward in price, and, with a stronger tone, things may improve somewhat. Cotton Piece Goods.—Little or no business is doing. Prices are dependent largely upon the result of the Cotton Crop, which would seem to indicate that it will be exceptionally heavy in America. Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—A little fresh business has been booked, but the market

generally remains dull and featureless. The effects of the failures amongst the Japanese dealers which have taken place this year are still much felt in this market. Textiles Generally.—Stocks are lightening somewhat, and slightly better prices are being obtained by sellers, but the position generally may be said to be still of a stagnant nature. Raw Cotton.—Japanese spinners are still only reluctant buyers, though prices in the producing countries seem to be hardening all round. Rice.—No change since last Report. Metals.—The position remains the same as last reported. Window Glass.—The same as Metals. Kerosene.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of November show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 9,300 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 5,510 units. Flour.—The market remains unchanged and practically lifeless. Wheat.—The same as last reported.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 28th November, 1906.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. piece	\$ —	\$ —
7 lbs.	2.27½	to 2.52½
8.4 lbs.	3.15	to 4.15
10 lbs.	4.10	to 5.50
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.80	to 3.65
58/60 ..	3.65	to 6.05
64/66 ..	6.20	to 6.90
Fine ..	8.15	to 9.40
Book-folds ..	5.60	to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.60	to 1.75
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	2.02½	to 2.22½
7 lbs.	2.32½	to 3.37½
6 lbs.	3.37½	to 3.87½
7 lbs.	3.27½	to 4.17½
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	4.50	to 5.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½		
to 14 lbs. }		

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece	\$1.85	to \$4.25
Brocades—Dyed	0.11	to 14.75
Chinese—Assorted	0.09	to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	0.27½	to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in.,	0.50	to 0.27
Handkerchiefs—Imitation	0.50	to 2.00
Silk per dozen }		

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	\$0.70	to \$2.00
German,	0.50	to 0.85
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	0.95	to 2.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	8.25	to 9.50
Assorted	7.35	to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted	12.60	to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	13.50	to 21.00
Assorted		
Orleans—Plain	9.50	to 11.00
Blankets—8 to 12	0.6	to 1.40

RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul	\$23.00	to \$25.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon			
and Dacca		23.00	to 26.00
Shanghai and Japanese ..		26.00	to 28.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ..		26.00	to 28.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	picul	\$ 4.10
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ..		4.05
Swedish Bar		4.15
Small Round Rod		4.50
Hoop, ½ to 1½ in.,		5.40
Wire, 16/25 oz.,		9.50
Old Wire Rope		3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..		—
Australian		9.25
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.		40.50
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., ..		40.50
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.		40.50
Tin,		90.00
Tin-Plates,	box	8.00
Steel	cwt. case	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver,	picul	174.00
Window Glass,	box	4.75
Kerosene Oil,	case	—
Saltpetre, No. 1	picul	\$11.75 to 12.00
Do. No. 2	"	10.90 to 11.30
Do. No. 3	"	9.75 to 12.00

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.40
(Choice		2.4)
White Lily		2.38
Morjon		2.38
Morning Glory		2.45
White Fawn		2.36
Cow		2.38
Cheese		2.38
T.H.L.		2.38
Coxcomb		2.36

EXPORTS:—

SILK.

Yokohama, 16th November:—Raw Silk.—The large business done prior to the United States:—Presidential election and in anticipation of the Republican success has been followed by a very quiet time, immediate requirements being evidently filled. Prices have, therefore, declined somewhat, but a fairly strong undercurrent exists nevertheless, and quotations are all more or less nominal. Waste Silk.—Market very firm. Business is restricted to new arrivals only, as the stock on hand is unsuitable in quality. There is a good demand for low-class material, for which prices have advanced still further. Habutai.—Kanzawa.—Prices show a slight decline since the commencement of the month, notably in 28 inch. American buyers have been evidently in the market for 27 inch in the neighbourhood of 5 momme inasmuch as the price of this weight has been remarkably steady. Echizen.—Quotations from this district are weaker, but only in a slight degree since our last report. There has not been much demand from anywhere and the market has been more occupied with the discussion of the proposed alterations in their inspection office. Kawamata.—The only change of importance to be noted is the decline in 20 inch goods by 20 sen.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 28th November:—There is nothing to report in the position of the market and there is no change of price \$83.50—\$84.50.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 27th November, 1908.—Business has slackened off a bit during the week but several stocks continue in demand without bringing any shares on the market. The chief features of the market are the continued firmness in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks & Unions, both of which have been dealt in at considerably enhanced rates, the former favoured by a further fall in sterling exchange, which closes at 1/8½ for T/T.

BANKS.—The demand reported in our last continuing and no shares being forthcoming, the rate for Hongkong and Shanghai gradually rose from 825 to 840 without any intermediate sales. At the latter rate a few shares changed hands, and at time of closing buyers at 845 rule the market without bringing out any more sellers. Nationals remain unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions with no sellers at 785 quickly improved to 790 and 795, at which rates a few changed hands, the market closing firm with buyers at 800. North Chinas have improved to 92 with buyers and no sales to report. Cantons have also improved in the absence of sellers to 190, at which a sale is reported at time of closing. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

FERM INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain quiet with sellers at 330. Chinas continue in favour and have improved to 102 without sales, closing with buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed in unimportant lots at 29 and 29½, closing with sellers at the latter, and buyers at 29. Shells have improved to 47/6 with buyers and no sellers. Sales of Star Ferrys are reported at 24 for old and 15 for new shares. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found buyers at 112½ and close with an inclination to buy at that rate. Luzons remain neglected.

MINING.—Raub after sales at 7½ 7½ and 7½ close steady at the last rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong, and Whampoa Docks have found buyers for small lots at 92, but close with a few more shares on offer at that rate. Kowloon Wharfs have ruled weak with sales at 45 closing with sellers. Shanghai Docks have weakened in the North and close at 72, or according to some private advices at 71. Hongkew Wharfs have also declined in the North where they are now quoted at 143. A small local sale was made at 149 in the early part of the week.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue at 93 with sellers and a few small sales at that rate have been effected. Humphreys have improved to 9½, and Hotels to 80 buyers, both closing firm.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are quoted in the North at 67 buyers, and Soy Chees are wanted at 240, while Laou Kung Mows have declined to 72½ with sellers and Internationals to 55.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have advanced to 11 with sales China Providents to 960 with buyers and Lankats are reported from the North at 900 buyers. Dairy Farms and Cements have changed hands at quotations. Union Water Boats are wanted at 10, and Watsons are quoted at 9 ex dividend of 30 cents paid during the week.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$845, buyers
National B. of China	28	London £2.15
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$8, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$5½, sellers \$1 }
China Provident	\$10	\$960, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 67, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$104, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 55, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 72½, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 240, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22½, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$45, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$92, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$8½	\$9½
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 72, in S'hai
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 143, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$180, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$80, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$24
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$190, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$102, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	\$5	Tls. 92, buyers
Union	\$100	\$800, buyers
Yangtze	\$30	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$93, sales & sel.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9½
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 116½
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Res. 250	\$580, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$7½
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$112½, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$69
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$14, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$17 sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$7/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24, sales
Do. New	\$5	\$15, sales & buy.
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, seller
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, ex div., buyers
Wismann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$0	230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

19th November, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$842½, buyers
National of China	28	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½ T125	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 90, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$167½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$98, buyers
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. def. }	210	Tls. 38, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. & Trading { pref. S'hai Tug & { ord. Lighter { pref.	21 10 T50	\$22.50, sellers \$29.10, sellers Tls. 45, buyers Tls. 51, sales
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 77½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$106, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 149, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$49, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 87½, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian	21	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10 21	Tls. 15½, x. d. bys.
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 116½, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Weihaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100, sales
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 68, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 57½, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 75, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 240, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 116½, sales
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 50, buyers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 875, sales
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20 220	Tls. 130, sales T. 410, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	100	\$85, buyers
Anglo-Ger. Brewery		
A. Butler Cement	50	\$25, sellers
Tile Works	50	Tls. 57, x. d. sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	10	nominal
Eastern Fibre		
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	28 sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20½, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$58, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Montrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$18, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6½, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 57, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Rep- ository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending November 19th, 1908, state:—We have to report another very considerable rise in Maatschappij etc., in Langkat shares during the week, and very little else has come in for any attention. The cause of this advance has been the expected bonus of Tls. 10 having been declared, coupled with the favourable news of the discovery of oil on another of the Company's properties in Sumatra. The rise commenced in the early part of the week, and every day showed an increase in price until the market touched Tls. 860 cash and Tls. 925 for March. A sharp reaction then set in, and the market dropped to Tls. 800 for cash and Tls. 850 for March: a demand again set in and without going into detail we quote our rates at closing as Tls. 850 for cash and Tls. 890 for March. Bank.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. These have had a good advance and are wanted at Tls. 842½. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/3¼. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug and Lighters shares. A fair business has been done in the ordinary stock at Tls. 44 and Tls. 45, and the preference shares have been placed at Tls. 51. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., shares have declined to Tls. 78. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. There has been some business done during the week and shares have changed hands at Tls. 133½ and Tls. 151 for cash. Rates for December have ruled weaker and after sales at Tls. 155 and Tls. 154, the market has dropped to Tls. 153. Sugar Cos.—No business done. Mining.—No business done. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co.—Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 116½. Anglo-French Land.—Sales have been made at Tls. 100. Industrial.—Ewo.—Shares have remained steady at Tls. 68/68½, and Tls. 69 for December. International Cottons have dropped to Tls. 57½, and there are sellers at this figure. Maatschappij etc., in Langkat.—We have nothing to add to what we have written in the heading of this report. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares have been placed at Tls. 130 cash, and Tls. 132½ for December, and at these rates the market remained steady. Shanghai Waterworks have again appreciated in value, and shares are wanted at Tls. 410. Miscellaneous.—Rates are as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—A sales of Municipal six per cent. debentures has taken place at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, November 27th	
ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	212½
Credits 4 months' sight	217
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	173½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	127½
Bank, on demand	128
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	127½
Bank on demand	128
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	82½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	83
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	72½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	101½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	12½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	12 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	89½
FOREIGNERS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.65
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$61.00
BAR SILVER per oz	22½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$3.88
"	10 " "	5.18
Hongkong	20 " "	3.50
"	10 " "	3.60

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG 26th November.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul for small parcels; to Philippines, 17 cents has been accepted. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 20 cents last. From Pulo Laut to Singapore, \$2.00; to Hongkong, \$2.10 per ton. Coal freights are firm. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton; to Canton, \$2.15; to Hongkong, \$1.40. From Wuhu to Swatow, a medium sized boat closed on a lump sum basis of \$4,750. Time charters. The *Solstad* and *Standard* have been closed for cattle business, particulars as below. The following are the settlements:—

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 18th Nov.—Per Conference Steamers, To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November:—

ARRIVALS.

19, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
19, Progress, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
20, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
20, China, Australian str., from Shanghai.
20, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
20, Kageshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
20, Sicilia, British str., from London.
21, America M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
21, Braemar, British str., from Shanghai.
21, C. Jebson, German str., from Chefoo.
21, Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.
21, Kowloon, German str., for Swatow.
21, Kumeric, British str., from Moji.
21, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
21, Nippon Maru, Jap. str. from Yokohama.
21, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
21, S. Rickmers, Dutch str., from Palembang.
21, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
21, Yusen Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
22, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
22, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Cardiganshire, British str., from London.
23, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
23, Dumbea, French str., from Marseilles.
23, Fausang, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Fooksang, British str., from Moji.
23, Hong Wan I, Br. str., from Singapore.
23, Kanagawa M., Jap. str., from Shanghai.
23, Kiukiang, British str., from Chefoo.
23, Onsang, British str., from Moji.
23, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
23, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
23, Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
23, Yatshing, British str., from Weihaiwei.
24, Glenturret, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Helene, German str., from Haiphong.
24, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from N'chwang.
24, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
24, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
24, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
24, Taming, British str., from Cebu.
24, Toonan, Chinese str., from Amoy.
24, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
24, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
24, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
25, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
25, Chinkiang, British str., from Swatow.
25, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
25, Ithaka, German str., from Wuhu.
25, Kumsang, British str., from Singapore.
25, Loyal, German str., from Samarang.
25, Ningchow, British str., from U.S.A.
25, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.

25, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
25, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Yunnan, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Benmohr, British str., from London.
26, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
26, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
26, Hikosan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotau.

November:— DEPARTURES.

20, Goeben, German str., for Shanghai.
20, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
20, Kueichow, British str., for Swatow.
20, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
20, Machaon, British str., for Singapore.
20, Matoppo, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Shibetoro Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
20, Suverio, British str., for Tacoma.
21, Ching Wo, British str., for Nagasaki.
21, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Kwangyen.
21, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
21, Locksun, German str., for Bangkok.
21, Namsang, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Progress, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
21, Ragnar, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
21, Sicilia, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
22, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
22, Cheongsing, British str., for Chefoo.
22, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
22, Dufferin, Br. transport, for Singapore.
22, Kageshima M., Jap. str., for Singapore.
22, Shantung, German str., for Samarang.
22, Signal, German str., for Hoihow.
22, Tsintau, German str., for Swatow.
23, Amara, British str., for Hongay.
23, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
23, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Braemar, British str., for New York.
24, Changsha, British str., for Manila.
24, China, Australian str., for Singapore.
24, Dumbea, French str., for Shanghai.
24, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
24, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
24, Kwangles, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
24, Sabine Rickmers, Dutch str., for Tamsui.
24, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Saigon.
24, Tourane, French str., for Europe.
24, Tuscarora, British str., for Moji.
25, Cardiganshire, British str., for Kobe.
25, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
25, Glenturret, British str., for London.
25, Kanagawa M., Jap. str., for Singapore.
25, Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
25, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
25, Taming, British str., for Manila.
26, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
26, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
26, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs S. D. Martinez and child, Mrs Remedios and 3 children, Messrs A. Berblinger, J. A. dos Remedios and A. W. Harlowe.

Per *Haiyang*, from Coast Ports, H.E. Mah, Dr. McMillar Brown, Messrs Lravers, Mark, Ferguson, Gibson, Fidler, Ollins, Parker and Thompson.

Per *Devanha*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. Mrs. (2) Masters and Miss C. Hughes, child, nurse and ayah, Miss Griffin, Miss Stubbs, Messrs D. Taylor and Laurie; from Marseilles, Rev., Dr. and Mrs Riddell, Miss H. Marx and Mr F. Brownring; from Bombay, Major and Mrs Jacques; from Singapore, Hon. Lt. Kimm, Messrs W. Carter and G. Blass; from London, for Manila, Mr and Mrs H. Krusi and child; for Shanghai, Com. and Mrs Welster, Capt. and Mrs J. Smith, Miss Gray and Mr J. Keith Sen; from Bombay, for Shanghai, Mr N. Doralzi; from London, for Yokohama, Mr and Miss R. Hill, Mrs Franklin, Miss Dixon and Mr W. Warren; for Manila, from Marseilles, Mrs F. Skowden.

Printed and published by BERTHAM AUGUSTUS HALL, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Vaux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong
London Office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.